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Volume 3, Issue 10
March 29, 1988
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The Force Inside

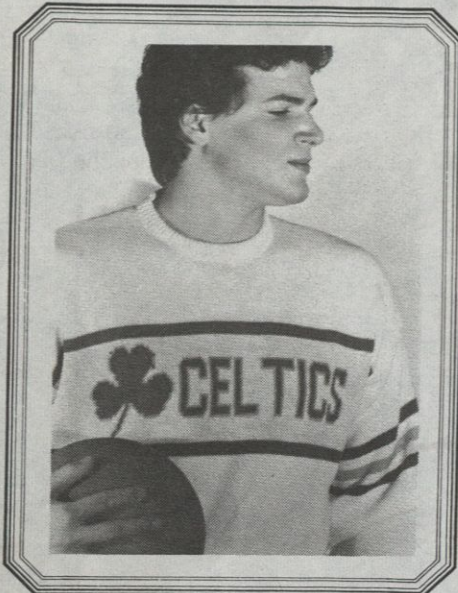
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Bob Cousy Interview

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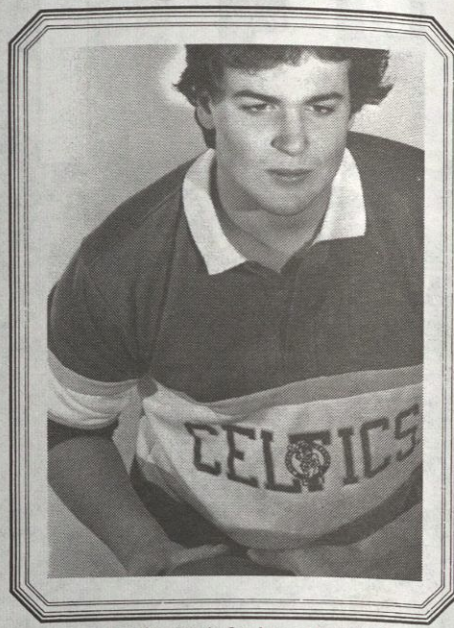
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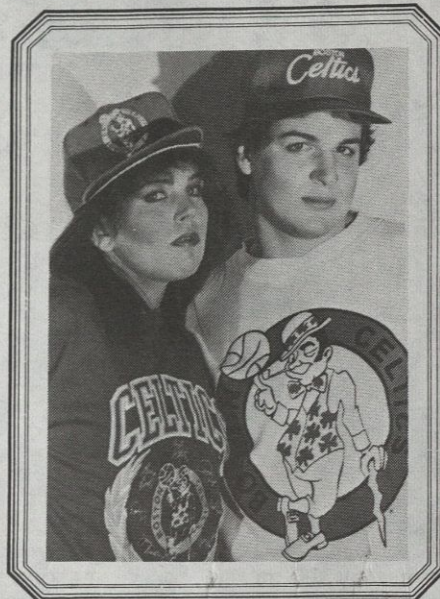
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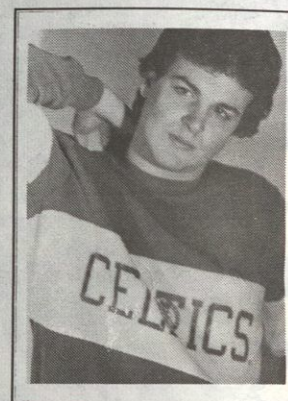
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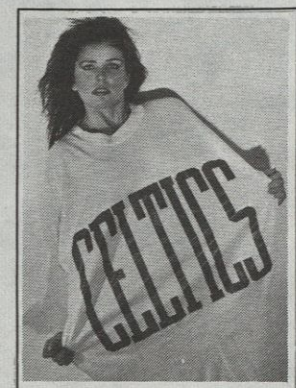
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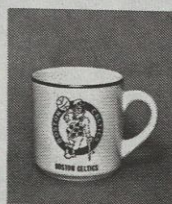
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BOSTON CELTICS PRIDE

Bud Light Daredevils Performed During Celtics Game on March 2



Ty and Guy Cobb pull a double-dunk.

The Bud Light Daredevils, the most unique slam-dunk act in the country, performed during halftime at the Boston Celtics basketball game against the New Jersey Nets on Wednesday, March 2, at Boston Garden.

The Bud Light Daredevils' popularity has taken them to over 150 colleges and universities, and into every National Basketball Association arena. The team includes brothers Ty and Guy Cobb, Tim Lancaster and Keith Eldred.

The act consists of an eight-minute slam-dunk and acrobatic halftime show, highlighted by the "Flip Dunk" and "Kongo Dunk," two daring feats of agility. The "Flip Dunk" features one of the team members springing off a mini-trampoline with a basketball in his hands, executing a forward somersault high into the air and slamming the ball through the hoop on his way down.

The "Kongo Dunk" utilizes three members performing consecutive flips in front of the rim, passing the ball from one to the other off the backboard, culminating with a massive slam-dunk by the fourth member.

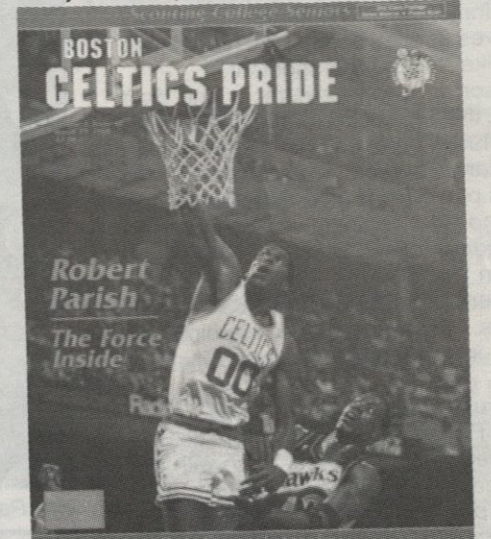
The Daredevils was born in 1980 when the athletes combined their precision gymnastic and ballhandling skills while cheerleading at the University of Mississippi.

This year the Bud Light Daredevils will perform at approximately 100 national and international events before more than 1 million fans. The team has performed internationally throughout Europe, the Middle East, Japan, Latin America and Australia. In this country the Daredevils regularly perform at NBA, NCAA, NAIA and Continental Basketball Association games.

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 10
ISSUE 50
MARCH 29, 1988

Cover ...

Robert Parish, though suffering from a nagging back problem, remains the Celtics force inside. When it comes to the crucial periods during a game, it's Robert who often lifts the level of his game a notch and responds. Cover photography by Steve Lipofsky.



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- 4 **Meet the Newest Celtic**
Jim Paxson comes to Boston on the wings of a deal which sent Jerry Sichting to Portland. Here's a close-up of the latest Celtics addition.
- 8 **The Celtics' Chieftain**
Robert Parish, described by K.C. Jones as the "Rodney Dangerfield of the NBA," may not get all the respect he deserves from the national media, but don't put him down around his teammates or his competitors.

- 10 **Billy Packer Rates the Seniors**
Veteran sportscaster Billy Packer takes a look at the talent available for the upcoming NBA draft.

- 21 **The Experts Agree.**
Two opinions are better than one. In this case CBS commentator Mike Francesca and NBA superscout Marty Blake take a candid look and the draft.

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Executive Editor:
Tod Rosensweig

Managing Editor:
Porter C. McKinnon

Associate Editor:
Robert Schron

Associate Editor:
Tony Cooper

Associate Editor:
Daniel Borgman

Advertising Director:
Mark Lev
(617) 523-6050

Subscription Inquiries:
Mark Drefs
(203) 966-6092

Staff Photographer:
Steve Lipofsky

Contributing Photographers:
Nat Butler

Contributing Writers:
Red Auerbach
M.L. Carr
Eddie Gillooly
K.C. Jones

Terry Lyons
Glenn Ordway
Jan Wrotnowski

Production Director:
Mark Drefs

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MARCH 29, 1988

Celtics Trade Sighting to Portland for Jim Paxson

Meet the Newest Celtic

By Bob Schron

In a move designed to bolster the guard rotation, the Celtics acquired veteran Jim Paxson from the Portland Trail Blazers in exchange for Jerry Sichting and future considerations.

"I have to like the deal," said K.C. Jones. "Jim is a good player, with playoff experience as well. He has size and he allows us some flexibility in terms of our substitution pattern. We can pair Jim with Dirk Minniefield off the bench and we feel that gives us solid depth. I like his defense and I like the way he shoots it."

Paxson is a former number one draft choice, the 12th pick overall of the Blazers in the 1979 draft. He is a 6-6 guard and has a career scoring average of 16.2 ppg. He has played in two All-Star games, the 1983 and 1984 contests, and he has been outstanding for the Blazers in his seven years in the playoffs. His best seasons there were in the 1982-83 and '83-84 post-seasons. He averaged over 23 points per contest in the former and over 22 in the latter.

"I'm just very glad to be here," commented Paxson at practice before he was scheduled to play his first game with the team against Milwaukee, February 26th. "At this point in my career the only thing that matters is winning a championship. When you're with a team like Boston, that's always a possibility. I feel we can win it and I'll do anything I can do to contribute."

"The thing that matters most to me is winning the title. Not minutes. Quantity of minutes doesn't affect me. I just want to produce in whatever time I have."

The deal was in the works for several days, but during the final week before the February 25th trading deadline, Paxson had thought the deal was off. "The problem was the salary cap. I didn't think we could work it out."

"It was unusual because the Celtics were in Portland the week before the trade worked out. A number of the players on the Celtics came over to me and said they hoped it would work out. That made



Jim Paxson: Hopes to Return to Form

me feel very good about the Celtics before I even got here."

"I have to be happy about the deal," commented Dirk Minniefield, who will pair with Paxson in the backcourt. "The biggest thing about it for me is that I won't have to contend with the big, physical guards."

General Manager Jan Volk spent most of ten days trying to iron out the final details of the trade. "We didn't have to make this trade, but when a quality player like Paxson is available, you have to make the move. It was a matter of availability. The deal makes sense age-wise for us, because Jerry is older, but when you're dealing with a player who has the character of a Jerry Sichting, it is a hard, hard decision to make."

"Besides, it's difficult to make a trade when you're the Celtics, for two major reasons. First, if a team thinks Red (Auerbach) is interested, they do a double-take; they think they have something more valuable than they had originally thought. Second, TV is a factor; usually we've been in The Finals. Teams around the league don't want to hear Dick Stockton, Tommy Heinsohn and Billy Cunningham (of CBS) singing the praises of players who once were with their teams. It makes them look bad."

"We aren't in the business of making ourselves comparable to the Lakers. We're just trying to make ourselves into the best team we can possibly be. We think Jim will help us continue to improve."

"I've had a couple of days to learn the system, and I feel pretty good," said Paxson. "This had been in the works before (the idea of Paxson being traded). I just think the system in Portland is better-suited for other players. It's a pleasure to come in and play with this team. I know one thing: if I'm in trouble, I'll just pass it into the post and have Kevin (McHale) and Larry (Bird) score."

"Kevin spent some time with me talking about the Celtics and I was impressed. He

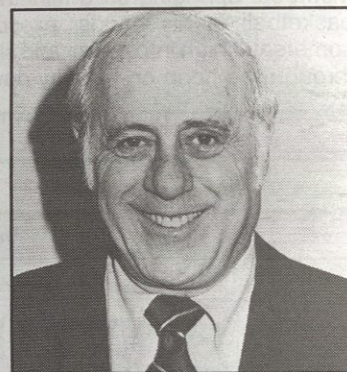
told me 'We take winning for granted. We don't take losing very well at all, and you're expected to play well here.' That's a great attitude."

Paxson was sidelined earlier in the year

with knee problems, but returned to action January 16th. He played 17 games with the Blazers and averaged 6.6 ppg. His best regular season was 1982-83, when he averaged 21.7 ppg.

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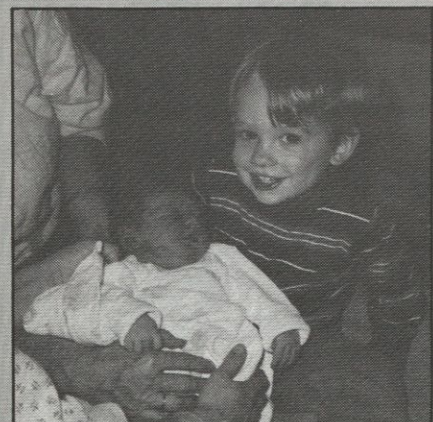
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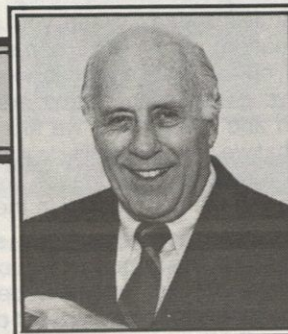
Player's name _____ Phone () _____
Street Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Age _____ Ht. _____ Wt. _____ Pos. _____

Celtics Family Grows



Taylor and Devin Lacerte

The most recent addition to the ever-expanding Celtics family is Taylor Lacerte, born to Celtics trainer Ed and wife Maureen on January 30, 1988, weighing 7 pounds 12 ounces. Taylor is pictured here with her very proud brother, Devin.



ASK RED

was the first coach?

Catherine Walsh
Milford, CT

RED'S ANSWER: The National Basketball Association was founded in 1946. The 1946-47 Celtics, coached by Honey Russell, finished last in the Eastern Division of the fledgling league with a 22-38 record. Here's a picture of that first Celtics team. In the back row, left to right, are: Harvey Cohn, trainer; Al Brightman; Art Spector; Harold Kottman; Connie Simmons; Gerard Kelly; and Danny Silva, assistant coach. In the front row are: Dutch Garfinkel; Charlie Hoefer; Honey Russell; John Simmons; and Wyndol Gray. Connie Simmons led that team in scoring, averaging 10.3 points per game. That team gave no sign of the good times to come.



QUESTION: In the last quarter at Philadelphia on Dec. 22nd, the Sixers appeared to have completely cleared out the right side of the floor for Andrew Toney to work one-on-one. Shouldn't the referees have called the Sixers on the new offensive isolation rule? I know

it was called once this season against the Celtics.
John Paul Pell
Brazil, IN

RED'S ANSWER: I can tell we have one fan who has been keeping up with the latest rule changes in the NBA. I don't recall the specific situation you described, but I don't think that the league's officials have been enforcing the new rule sufficiently. The new isolation rule, Rule No. 10, Section XV in the NBA Rule Book, reads as follows: "If the offensive team stations three or more players above the tip of the circle, on the weak side, a violation shall be called. PENALTY: Loss of ball. Ball is awarded to the opponent at the tip of the circle extended." The rule was intended to force teams to run real offensive plays, by limiting their chances to isolate one good offensive player all by himself on the weak side.

QUESTION: How does the NBA handle the revenues from souvenir items, such as the hats, shirts, jackets, etc? Do the individual teams get a percentage from the number of their own items sold?

Matthew Thompson
St. Albans, W. Va.

RED'S ANSWER: No, not exactly, although we'd be doing a lot better if that were the case. Actually, all the revenues from NBA-licensed products, licensed by NBA Properties, Inc., are shared equally among the 23 (soon to be 25) teams in the league, regardless of which teams those individual products are associated with. I understand, as you might expect, that almost two-thirds of the NBA team-identified products sold are those of either the Celtics or the Lakers. Still, the proceeds from all items sold are shared equally, and even though we could make more money getting all the proceeds from Boston Celtics souvenirs, I agree with this policy. Basically this is a league no stronger than its weakest link, and every team in it is important.

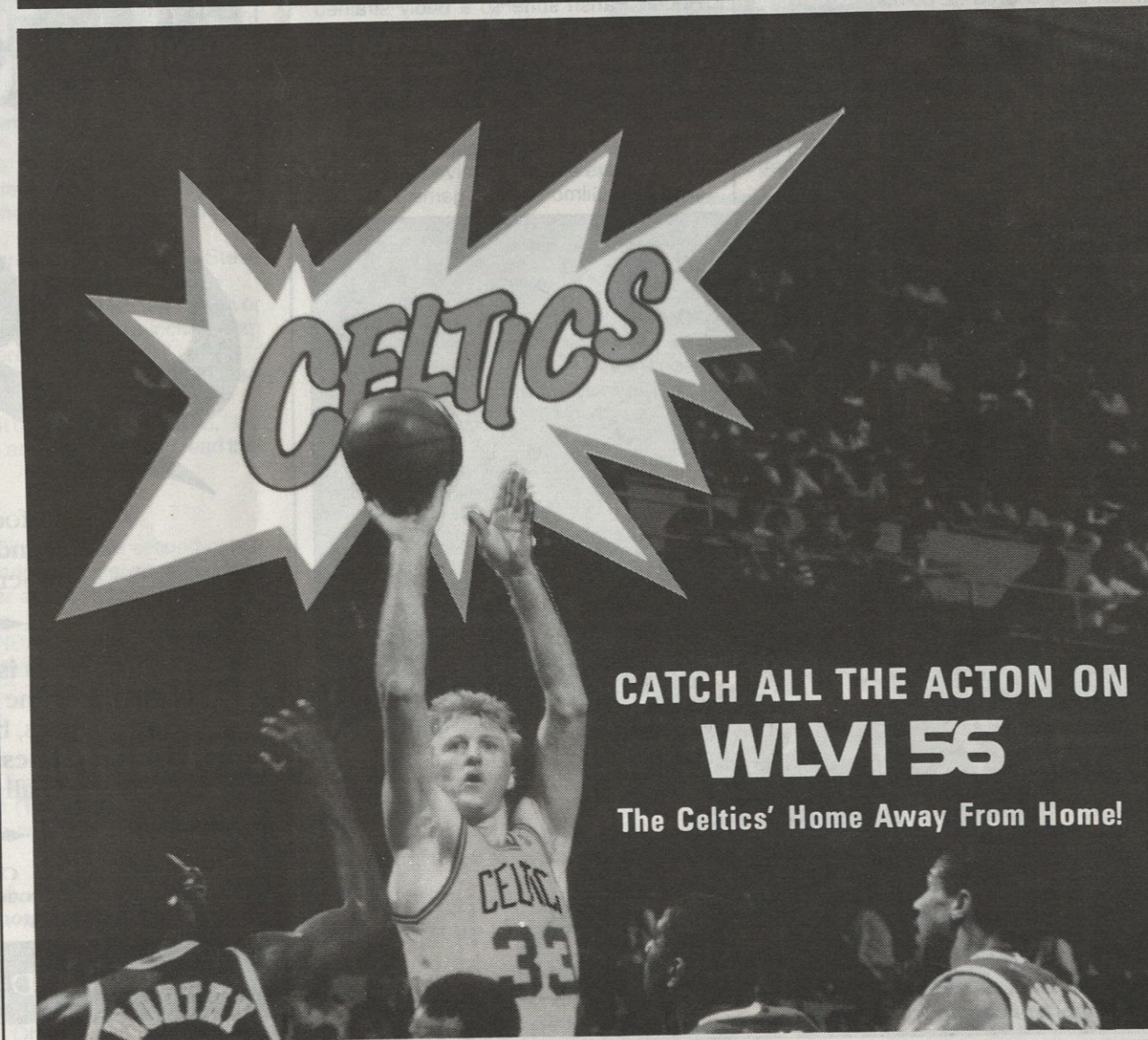
Dallas Mavericks		Reg. Season		Playoffs	
Season	Coach	W.	L.	W.	L.
1980-81	Dick Motta	15	67	...	...
1981-82	Dick Motta	28	54	...	...
1982-83	Dick Motta	38	44	...	...
1983-84	Dick Motta	43	39	6	6
1984-85	Dick Motta	44	38	1	3
1985-86	Dick Motta	44	38	5	5
1986-87	Dick Motta	55	27	1	3
Totals		267	307	11	17

QUESTION: If the Celtics play at home one night and have to play away the following night, do they generally fly out of Boston after the home game or wait until the next morning?

Cindy Gulino
Shrewsbury, MA

RED'S ANSWER: We never fly out of Boston on the same night as a home game, with all the traveling these guys have to do, they deserve as much time with their families as they can get. For the same reason, we try to get home from a road game, whenever possible, on the same evening after the game. With many of the East Coast cities, that is possible, and we have an agreement with some of the airlines that they will hold a flight for a few minutes to give us time to get to the airport.

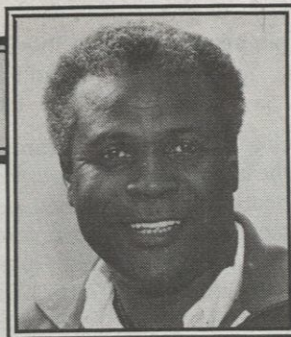
QUESTION: What year was the National Basketball Association formed, and what are the names of the players who constituted the first Celtics team? Who



CATCH ALL THE ACTION ON
WLVI 56

The Celtics' Home Away From Home!





COACH'S CORNER

By K.C. Jones

Road Success

I think we had a very successful road trip last month when we went into seven western cities and emerged with still the best record in the Eastern Conference. We had a lot of things happen to us on the road — some were good, some were discouraging — but we are, at least, in a position to have control over the home court advantage in the East. A brief glance back at the trip and what the future holds.

I think we played very well in Texas, where we lost to Houston but then rallied to defeat San Antonio and Dallas in the final two games of that swing. Houston is a very good, deep team; with Olajuwon and Joe Barry Carroll, they have the foundation of a very tough and talented ballclub. We fell behind there and although we scored and ran our offense well enough down the stretch, they were too far out in front in the final minute for us to get the win. However, we responded in San Antonio, although they didn't look as if they would ever miss in the first half (when they scored 72 points).

I think that for a team to succeed over a long regular season, you have to (first) want to win and (second) want badly enough to win even when all of your game isn't with you every night. We needed the points that night from all of our people and, fortunately we outscored them behind Larry Bird and Kevin McHale in the

final minutes.

In Dallas we were up against one of the best teams in the league, and even though we fell behind after a 13-0 Dallas run, we still were able to hang in there and win it when Larry hit a running three-point field goal in the final four seconds.

Three emotional games in Texas, and this was only a prelude to our meeting with the Los Angeles Lakers. They have always had the most talent in the league and they have always been the best running team in the league. We needed to play better on the offensive end, but unfortunately we made some bad decisions and allowed their running game to get in gear. By the time we awoke, during a very exciting and pleasing third quarter (outscoring the Lakers 36-12), we were a little too drained to finish the job and win the ballgame. The Lakers won it, 115-106 and they won both games against us this season.

We completed the trip by winning two of the last three. The night following the loss to LA, we worked well enough in the first half to build up a substantial lead on Phoenix, and then held on for a 107-106 win when Danny Ainge made two foul shots in the final seconds. This took us to Denver, where the Nuggets didn't miss all night. Denver scored on almost all of its possessions (21 of 22) down the stretch in the third period to give them a 111-90 third quarter lead. We couldn't catch up. And for the second time on the trip, we suffered an important injury; in Los Angeles, Robert Parish suffered a badly strained back, forcing him to leave for the remainder of the road trip. Here, Larry broke his nose and he was shaken up throughout the rest of the game, although he continued to play on.

We won the getaway game against the Trail Blazers and we received a major lift from Artis Gilmore in that game. Artis had

a 13-point, 7-rebound game in Portland, a tribute to his professionalism, since he hasn't received much playing time since coming here. That is a critical factor on a trip such as the one we just concluded out West. The team travels every other day, and on the days we're not flying we're playing games. What this means for players like Artis, Fred Roberts and Reggie Lewis is that there isn't any available practice time to work either on conditioning, or on sharpening up their NBA skills. It's a tough situation when the playing time off the bench is so limited.

We returned home last week and we were off to a good start in the victory column when we defeated the Knicks in Hartford. The game wasn't pretty, but Larry, despite a touch of the flu, responded and scored 36 points. His offensive game has never been better.

What lies ahead? When you analyze the situation, we have 16 home games and 11 on the road after this week. Our final two games with Detroit are in the Garden and therefore, if we are able to show that we have the ability to win, we do indeed have the best chance we could want to win the best record in the East.

There has been a constant swirl of trade discussions around the collective head of our ballclub, and this doesn't always make for the most pleasant of situations for all concerned. It's like cutting a player during training camp: you sometimes are forced into making decisions about your team and although it's difficult and the answers aren't easy, you have to make the decisions. And since this involves people, there are bruised and sometimes angry feelings. Inevitable in a competitive business. We have worked hard this season and we have weathered some difficult storms to have the record we have (37-16 at this writing).

We have to keep pulling together and continue playing better in order to achieve the necessary first step: beating out Detroit and Atlanta and winning the East.

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Fred Roberts: Looking for Minutes

NOTES AND QUOTES

By Jim Rucidlo

"I hate to see Jerry go because he's a good friend. I've been competing with him for a long time and he's a good teammate, but these things happen, and I understand that. Now Jim Paxson's here and he's going to fit in just fine. Jim can play our style of ball. He'll have no problem with us. It's a step in the right direction for our team. We need some help and he's going to help us."

"Now we have to wait for Walton to get back from vacation." — Larry Bird

□ □ □

No Celtic has ever won an NBA individual scoring championship. This season Larry Bird (30.0 ppg) is currently third in the league, trailing only 1986-87 scoring champ Michael Jordan (33.7) and Dominique Wilkins (30.6), winner of the award in 1985-86.

The Warriors (Phila./San Francisco/Golden State) have had a player cop the scoring title an NBA record 12 times.

□ □ □

Portland coach Mike Schuler, on how he coaches against Larry Bird: "I don't think you stop Larry Bird . . . anyway, I didn't have a gun."

□ □ □

NBA regulation games consist of four 12-minute periods, for a total of 48 minutes per game. During the 1961-62 season, Philadelphia Warrior Wilt Chamberlain saw 3,882 minutes of action in 80 games. Simple math: Chamberlain averaged over 48.5 minutes per game.

□ □ □

Bill Russell and Chamberlain faced each other 142 times during the span 1959-1969. Chamberlain averaged 28.7 points and 28.7 rebounds in these contests, while Russell totalled 14.5 ppg and 23.7 rpg.

□ □ □

Although Chamberlain dominated the statistics, Russell walked away the winner: Russell's Celtics were 85-57 against Chamberlain's teams. This is how it breaks down: Russell versus Chamberlain's Philadelphia Warriors (31-16); San Francisco Warriors (21-6); Philadelphia 76ers (27-28); and Los Angeles Lakers (6-7).

□ □ □

The 1968-69 Celtics team was the only club in NBA history to win the title one year and fail to make the playoffs the following year, due in large part to Russell's retirement after the 1968-69 campaign.

□ □ □

Larry Bird, on the Celtics comeback against the Trail Blazers at the Garden: "It might have looked easy, but it's a little tougher, probably, than what it looked."

□ □ □

Portland coach Mike Schuler and star player Clyde Drexler both exhibited a touch of class following a controversial no-call at the buzzer in a game they lost to the Celtics by one point.

Perhaps this is why they keep winning despite the absence of team leaders Steve Johnson, Sam Bowie and Kiki Vandeweghe for a large part of the season.

"It seemed like someone tipped it off (the rim). I don't know if it was Robert Parish or (Blazer) Maurice Lucas," Drexler said with a laugh, "but everyone in this locker room thinks it was Parish. I'd hate to have to make that call here (the Garden)."

Coach Schuler added, "It looked to me, now no excuses, we had potential interference. But the refs said no, so it's no."

"It looked like a hand, I don't think it was a Blazer hand, hit the net," he explained, "but I'm not complaining — we didn't lose the game on one call, and I don't want to read that we did in the papers tomorrow."

□ □ □

How old are the Celtics? Well, look at it this way: Artis Gilmore is the second-oldest player in the NBA, Bill Walton is the fifth-oldest, Robert Parish is the sixth-oldest, and Dennis Johnson is the 13th-oldest. The youngest member of the starting five, Danny Ainge, turns 29 on St. Patrick's Day.

A veteran team needs a veteran coach and only four NBA coaches are older than K.C. Jones — Frank Layden (Utah), Gene Shue (Clippers), Chuck Daly (Detroit) and Jack Ramsay (Indiana).

□ □ □

Newest Celtics acquisition Jim Paxson comes from a basketball family. Younger brother John is a guard with the Chicago Bulls and father Jim Paxson Sr. played for the Minneapolis Lakers (1956-57) and the Cincinnati Royals (1957-58).

Jim Paxson is Portland's all-time leading scorer and a two-time NBA All-Star.

□ □ □

Last season Boston outscored their opponents in more quarters than any other NBA team, doing it 190 times, finishing ahead of the Lakers, who scored more 189 times.

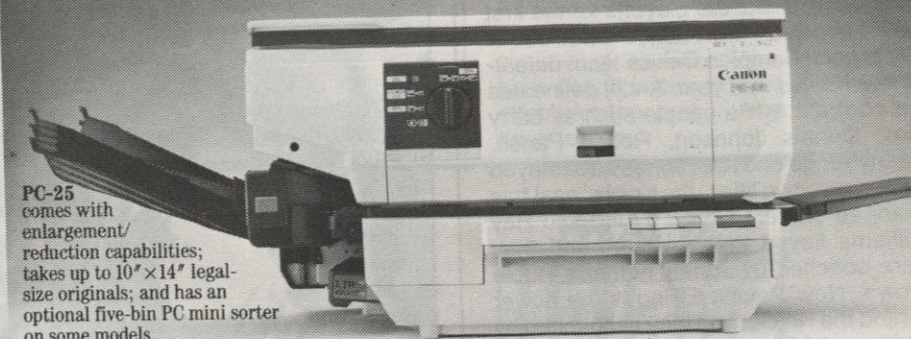
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Q: What was the only club to outscore the Celtics for four quarters in one game?

A: Cleveland Cavaliers, April 7, 1987 in Richfield, Ohio.

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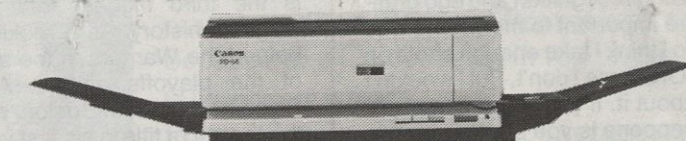
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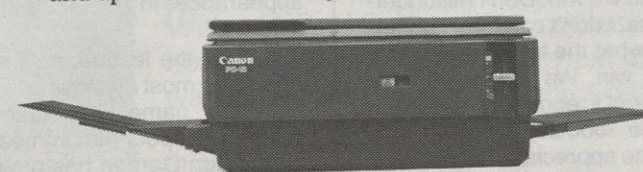
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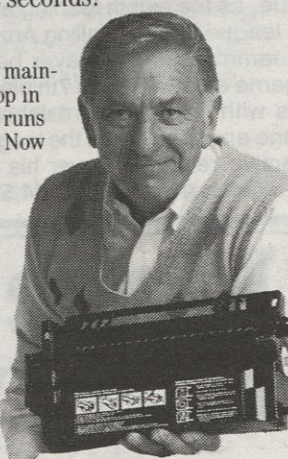
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Robert Parish is the Foundation of Team Success Cornerstone of the Celtics

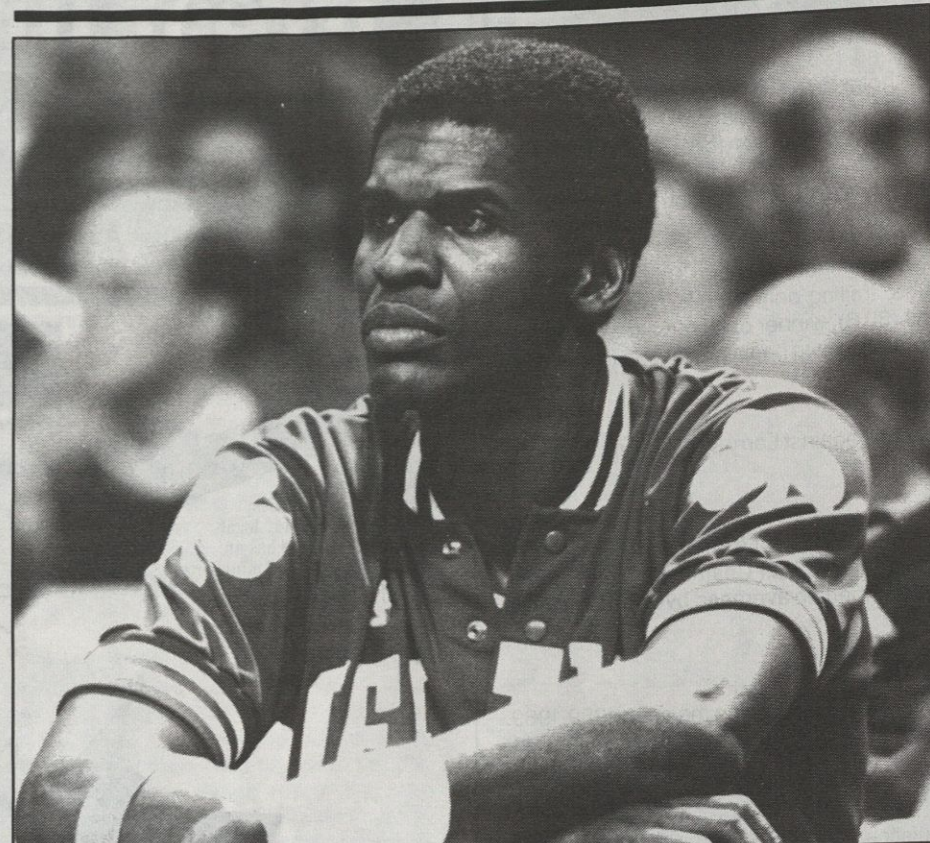
By Bob Schron

It's an hour before game time, a game the Celtics players don't cherish, a late February contest against the up-and-coming New York Knicks. It's a match-up of teams at roughly different ends of the spectrum. The Knicks are striving, straining to make the playoffs for the first time since 1984. Ironically, the nucleus of this proud champion Celtics team defeated the Knicks that year. And it delineates the contrast: while people such as Larry Bird, Dennis Johnson, Robert Parish, Danny Ainge and K.C. Jones have stayed on and won two titles, the Knicks' cast has changed entirely. Bernard King and Ray Williams keyed that '84 team and they were coached by Jones' nemesis Hubie Brown. Now Patrick Ewing is the power behind the Knicks and they're coached by 35-year-old Rick Pitino.

Robert Parish is sitting in front of his locker at the Hartford Civic Center, reading a letter, and after finishing, exchanging stories with WILD Sports Director Willie Maye. They talk about jazz and they joke and nearby Dennis Johnson joins in. In the times before competition at its highest levels, the mood is decidedly low key in the veterans' locker room.

"It's just the way I've always approached it," Parish says. He's in a pair of dress slacks and a casual button-down white sweater. "I once had different priorities in the game. Stats once meant much more; receiving recognition and ego gratification were important to me when I was younger. Do I think I take enough shots on this team? Of course I don't. But I wouldn't complain about it. If you begin complaining, what happens is you start a reaction and you can't predict how that will turn out. My main concern is we're a quality basketball team and we win. Don't misunderstand, it's not that I don't care, but I understand my role, what the team needs from me in order to win. We win; within that team achievement I rebound, play strong defense, run the floor, set picks."

The saga of the appreciated/unappreciated superstar Robert Parish. Parish headed into this season, his 11th in the league, as the eighth leading active scorer in league annals, trailing Artis Gilmore, his teammate and a player he modeled his game after, who is in 7th place. Parish ranks with Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Moses Malone and Gilmore as the league's leading active rebounder over his career as well. Parish had scored 14,522 points



Robert Parish: Under-Rated but not Under-Appreciated

heading into this season and had pulled down 8,710 rebounds. His 25 defensive rebounds while with the Warriors in 1979 is the third highest total ever in the league's history. As a rookie in 1977 he helped the Warriors in the second round of the playoffs against Abdul-Jabbar. Since he's been in Boston, after spurring the team to a title in his first year, the team has always been in the playoffs, and added two more championships and appearances in The Finals in the past four seasons.

Around the league, he's respected as one of the most dynamic power players to play the game. His teammates and coaches respect him immeasurably and the Boston Garden has grown to deeply respect the man. Yet, there is a shadow hovering over the player; as the Celtics battle the Los Angeles Lakers for the top spot in the league in the eighties, that ominous presence is Abdul-Jabbar. The Lakers and the Celtics have met three times in the championship finals and the Lakers have won two times.

Interestingly, when Parish is asked to rank his toughest opposition, Abdul-Jabbar is a conspicuous absence. He feels Malone is still his toughest matchup. "Moses is still a legitimate force in this league. He is a power to contend with."

Among the younger players who provide the most trouble: Akeem Olajuwon and Patrick Ewing. "You see, teams aren't afraid of us as much, overall. The center position is just a part of that. Teams have gotten better in their own talent and they saw the success Milwaukee and Detroit had against us last year."

"I think the league has become stronger in every position. Younger, stronger... Akeem, for example, has tremendous offensive and defensive skills and he keeps improving his game. Patrick, the same thing. He's coming into his own now that the pressure is off him as being a 'savior.' He's a tough, young buck."

The competition around the league has had plenty to say about Parish. Moses Malone walked outside the Garden after the Celtics defeated Washington last month. Moses is a proud, sullenly dark man, usually reluctant to talk at all, and when he does, he usually talks about his own game. But he respects Parish. "I go up against the Celtics and all I think about is winning. Robert Parish is one of the centers in the league and he's a lot to handle. He plays the game hard and I respect him. He's a winner."

"I respect 'The Chief,'" offers Ewing. "He's one of the class centers in this game. Sometimes he gets it going, especially defensively, and you just have to back off of him."

Like Malone, Abdul-Jabbar is the type of man who is completely focused on his own performance. And like Parish, he's intent on playing the game, and letting the opponent worry about him. During the playoffs, Abdul-Jabbar was probed about the Celtics' center. "Robert Parish is a good center," Abdul-Jabbar commented. And didn't say much else. He let his composed silence be the remainder of the

reply. The words of Bill Walton, a brilliant player in his own right, serve as counterpoint to Abdul-Jabbar's begrudged statement. "Robert Parish is one of the most under-rated players in the league," says Walton. "I never realized how talented he was, both on the offensive and defensive ends... his quickness..."

Parish's minutes were down during the Sweet Sixteen Championship in 1986, but his production was never more meaningful. His passing game improved dramatically that season.

"Everybody's judged by points as their production for some reason," Parish said. "I've made sacrifices toward the winning concept and I take pride in that. I'm not sure many other players could do that. It's not as easy to get up for every game every night. But I do enjoy being challenged every game, whether on an individual or on a team level."

You take pride in your team. It isn't necessary to like everybody on your team, but it is necessary, as a team, to play well together on the floor to win. I think we like each other on this team, on and off the floor. It's important."

Parish is told about Malone's comments and he seems genuinely surprised. "He said that?!" and he pauses a moment. "I can't say for sure if I'm respected around the league. When I was younger, I did play for that reason, partly. Now what is important, at this stage of my career, is winning championships. It's important every year. That's what keeps you going out there." (Parish had been out most recently with a strained back, forcing him to miss the February 14-19 leg of the Western trip.) Titles are hard to win because of the great talent around the league. Some players never win titles, and some never even become the players they could be, for a number of reasons: they're in the wrong situation at the wrong time, mental toughness, injuries.

"There's a fine line between good players and great ones. Eighty percent of it is confidence, and that's all derived from mental toughness."

Parish's best moments against Abdul-Jabbar have come when he was injury-free, and therefore his most confident. Parish in his best moments against Kareem — battling him for position, aggressively contesting the pass into the post, and, if Kareem receives it, fighting him for possession, swiping at the held ball in the post. Parish's position defense is outstanding against Abdul-Jabbar, who is rested more than ever now by cagey Pat Riley. A rested Kareem against a fatigued Parish in fourth quarters during the past two seasons has been critical as the Lakers have inched ahead in the battle between the superpowers of basketball.

This has been a perplexing season for Boston. Marquee-type players have been brought in, including Artis Gilmore and Jim Paxson. Bill Walton has been absent, Jerry Sichting traded. Parish, for one, was extremely motivated last year to be part of the first team to win titles back-to-back. This season, there's been something of a collective letdown.

"It's work, sometimes, and that's why I'm happy Artis is here. We need intimidation in the post and he's made the second unit that much better. We'll be there in June, I feel. I'm happy the way things are."

The State of Affairs Between Management and Players

Shop Talk

On February 5, 1988 the NBA Players Association voted to decertify their union and continue their negotiations, this time perhaps in the court room, rather than in bargaining sessions. Gary Bettman, the NBA's legal counsel was contacted to see if he could shed further light on this difficult subject. His responsiveness was timely and much appreciated.

CELTICS PRIDE: Could you give our readers a further explanation on the recommendation by the players' representatives to decertify the players' union?

BETTMAN: The players voted, so I understand from press reports, on February 5th, to begin the process to disclaim interest.

CELTICS PRIDE: Why would they do that?

BETTMAN: Well, we think it's a litigation ploy, intended to aid their lawsuit.

CELTICS PRIDE: What advantages would they be gaining by doing that?

BETTMAN: Well, they believe that it would deprive the league of the labor exemption to the anti-trust laws. But considering we would have to be satisfied that it was bona fide, which we would question, it might not eliminate the labor exemption. And in addition, even if it did eliminate the labor exemption, we believe that our practices are reasonable, and therefore, legal under the antitrust laws.

CELTICS PRIDE: What are the issues that are the sticking points, creating the impasse in the collective-bargaining negotiations?

BETTMAN: Well, the players have demanded the elimination of the right of first refusal, salary cap and the college draft. And we said that we are prepared to discuss modifications. But we think the present system is working well, and we don't want to change it, we don't want to eliminate it.

CELTICS PRIDE: How does the salary cap work?

BETTMAN: Basically the way it works is: the players are promised a 53% share of the gross. That leads to a computation of a salary cap. When a team is below the cap it can spend up to the cap. And when a team is above the cap, it can only get players by using the so-called exceptions: an injured player exception, an exception if a player retires, if a player's waived or a player's traded.

CELTICS PRIDE: So the players are saying they want that eliminated completely?

BETTMAN: They've said that. The bulk of the attention has been focused on the right of first refusal, because in fact, the salary cap has worked well for the league and the players. Teams are doing well, and the average player's salary in the last four years has increased from \$260,000 to \$510,000. So we think the system's working quite well. My guess is that the focus of everyone's attention will be the right of first refusal.

CELTICS PRIDE: And that leads to free agency?

BETTMAN: Well, that's what happens when you become a free agent. The players think that all players should just be free to do whatever they want. But we

think that to maintain a competitive league, you have to have teams, the so-called less desirable teams, either by perception or market or the like, be able to get and retain players; you need to have a right of first refusal.

CELTICS PRIDE: I guess their other point was that they want to eliminate the college draft?

BETTMAN: Well, that's what they say, but time will tell if that's what they really want.

CELTICS PRIDE: And the decertifica-

tion process is left as it was over the All-Star weekend?

BETTMAN: I assume that they're proceeding with it, but there's really been no change that we know of.

CELTICS PRIDE: Are negotiations actually going on now?

BETTMAN: No, they're not. We have been repeatedly inviting the players to the table, and they have declined those invitations.

CELTICS PRIDE: Mr. Fleisher is the man who comes to the table?

BETTMAN: Yes.

CELTICS PRIDE: This kind of thing could drag on for a long time then?

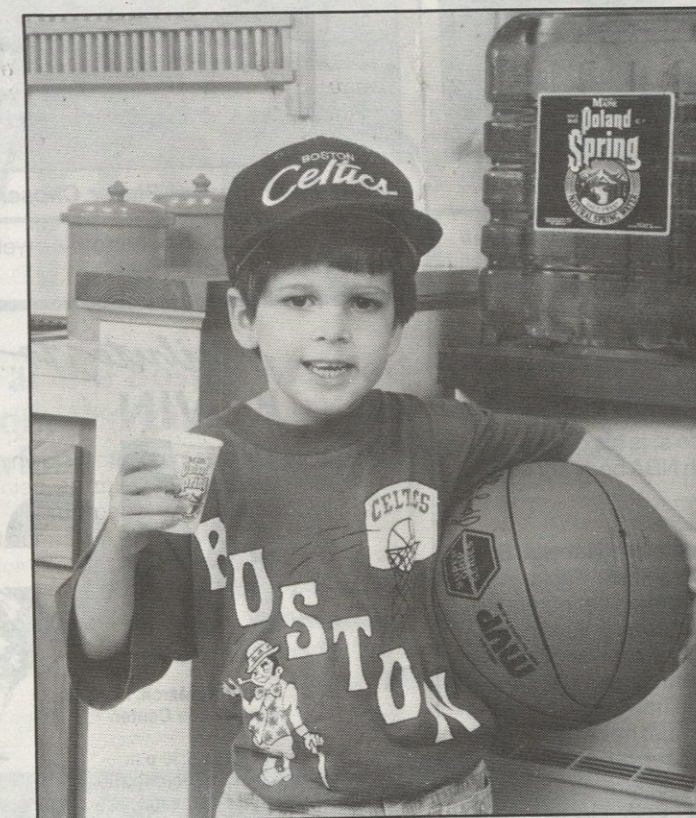
BETTMAN: Well, we're optimistic that ultimately we're going to make a deal. When that is, I can't predict.

CELTICS PRIDE: If the union is decertified, do the players lose all those benefits gotten previously through their union?

BETTMAN: No. I mean, that's always an option that an employer has under those circumstances. Except, as I indicated, we have been keeping all of their benefits in effect. And our present intention is to continue to do so.

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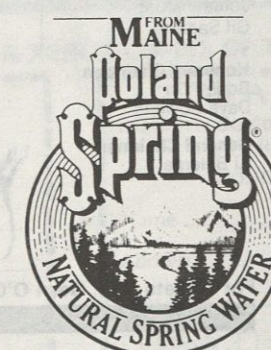


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Billy Packer Rates the College Seniors

Packer's Picks

By Bob Schron

BS-TV's Billy Packer is probably the best of the television color analysts. Packer is a student of the game, a former player at Wake Forest under Bones McKinney and the son of a coach. He has covered the ACC for over twenty-five years and has been the prominent color analyst of the college game since joining up with Al McGuire and Dick Enberg in the late seventies. Packer and Company have done for college basketball as a television sport very much what Frank Gifford, Don Meredith and Howard Cosell did for the National Football League.

Packer is the author of *Hoops* and is a contributor to several basketball talk shows and magazines. He rated the college draft last week for *Celtics Pride*, the first in a series which will evaluate and update the collegiate players as they conclude their season and head into the NBA draft in June.

"I think the first thing that stands out about the draft is that there is a lack of outstanding big men. What this does is make the draft uncommonly even. The professional game is still a five man game; the teams that don't come away with a top-flight center will have to make do with the best player available, regardless of position. There are a number of good players available for the draft, however."

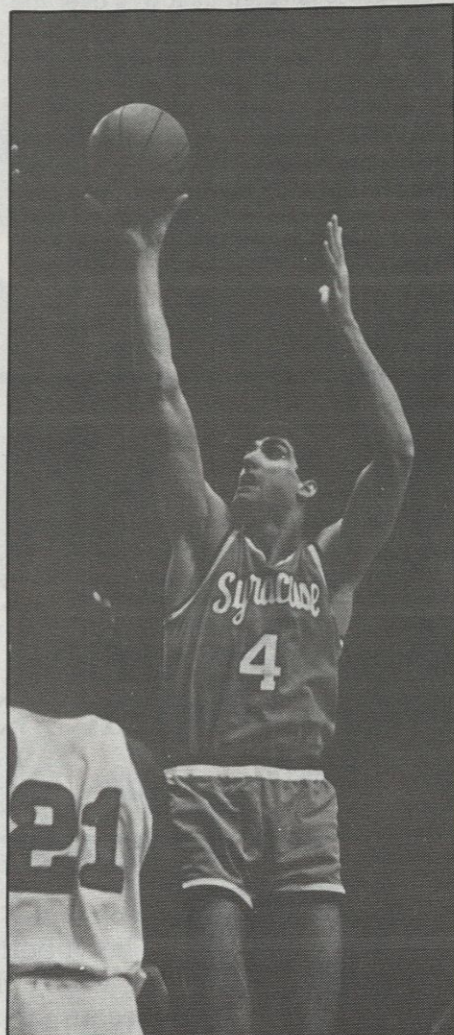
Danny Manning, C, Kansas. "I don't think there's any question that Danny Manning is an outstanding prospect. He can run the floor and he is an outstanding passer to accompany his scoring and rebounding ability. Things haven't been great for him in Kansas, but he's very intelligent. He's just kept his mouth shut and continued to work at his game. He has excellent hands."

Charles Smith, C, Pitt. "The players in the East are highlighted by Smith, who can score and play the inside game as well as anyone. He's got good size and he runs the floor well for a big man. He's a presence underneath, and he can intimidate. He's certainly been able to do that against a very tough (Big East) league in college."

Rony Seikaly, C, Syracuse. "There have been some questions about Rony, about his mechanical approach to the game. But I like him. He can run the floor, shoot it, and intimidate. He might have some learning to do about the game. But, like Jim Boeheim of Syracuse says: 'People said Danny Schayes couldn't play, but look where he is now (C at Denver).'"

Rik Smits, C, Marist and Wil Perdue, C, Vandy. "I'm reluctant to comment on Smits because I haven't seen him, but his size alone makes him a legitimate contender for the lottery. Perdue is a player who has probably done the most to improve his position in the draft of any player I've seen this year. He's a very good player now, has shown he can turn games around and he has size and the ability to run the floor."

Jarvis Basnight, F, UNLV. "Basnight, in his position, has done a great deal also to improve his spot in the draft. He has improved his board play and he has shown he can contribute to a winning program. Another player who fits this category is:



Rony Seikaly: Questions Abound

Lefester Rhodes, Iowa State. He's able to run the floor, catch the ball real well in traffic in rebounding and also has the ability to catch passes. He can play."

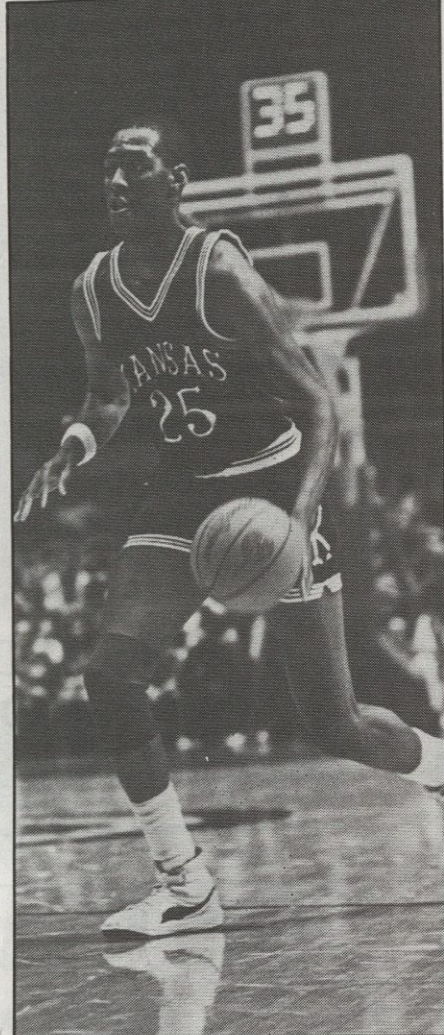
Harvey Grant, F, Oklahoma. "Use his brother as model (Horace Grant, Clemson and 1st round choice of Chicago in last year's draft). I think Harvey's great strength, like Horace's, is his quickness. I don't think he has an NBA body but he has good playing skills."

In order to succeed in the National Basketball Association, thinks Packer, the player must meet a certain set of requirements. "I think that there are certain things the player must have: he obviously has to have the talent. There's a certain level of athleticism he has to have. If there isn't talent, then he must have two things: size, and the ability to run the floor in order to compensate for a lack of ability. Larry Bird's size is critical to his success. If he was 6-5, he'd have problems."

Willie Anderson, G, Georgia. "I think Anderson has a real chance to help a team, provided he has the luck to be with the right team. He can handle the ball pretty well and I think he has the size and the ability to play defense."

Gary Grant, G, Michigan. "The same with Gary Grant. He can handle it, but most importantly, he can guard people. I think this latter quality separates him from a player like:

David Rivers, G, Notre Dame. Rivers might be an outstanding player with the right team, but what hurts him is size. He might be too frail for the NBA, and I have



Danny Manning: 1st Player Chosen?

doubts that he could penetrate as well as he does for Digger Phelps."

Hersey Hawkins, G, Bradley. "I am extremely impressed with Hersey Hawkins. I think he's a lottery pick, without a doubt. I think he can just go in and play and be the type of player that other teams adjust to. I think he could be a starter in his first year."

Derrick Chievous, G, Missouri. "He's talented, but I think he might have a lot of trouble playing in the NBA. He's a garbage type scorer, but I think with his size, he'll have to play the off-guard position. I don't know if he can shoot the ball well enough from the perimeter to get the job done at that spot. To be an off guard in the NBA you better be able to shoot the ball."

Duane Ferrell, F, Georgia Tech. "He's had a fine season, but he needs to handle it better. Can he play the backcourt? I don't know; he's an in-between size, like a Ricky Pierce of Milwaukee. He can drive but he's definitely not a lottery pick."

Fennis Dembo, G, Wyoming. "The same with Dembo. An exceptional college guard, but in the NBA, a Ricky Pierce size."

Vernon Maxwell, G, Florida. "The chance to be an outstanding NBA player. He has great speed and he can shoot the ball well from the perimeter. He is a player."

Keith Smart, G, Indiana. "Has had trouble adjusting to Bob Knight's defense, but his athletic ability makes him an outstanding prospect. I think any NBA team would be making a good choice in Smart. He's explosive and he can score."

Everett Stephens, G, Purdue. "Although he's the third best college player on his very good team (behind Troy Lewis and Todd Mitchell), he's the best professional prospect as a big guard. He can run the floor, he can guard people, he has good size and he can play the perimeter. Plus he's shown himself to be a good ballhandler."

"I think the Celtics have to be looking to get the best player available. I'm not certain that they'll have anything close to their first priority. The best players in the draft are probably swing-type players."

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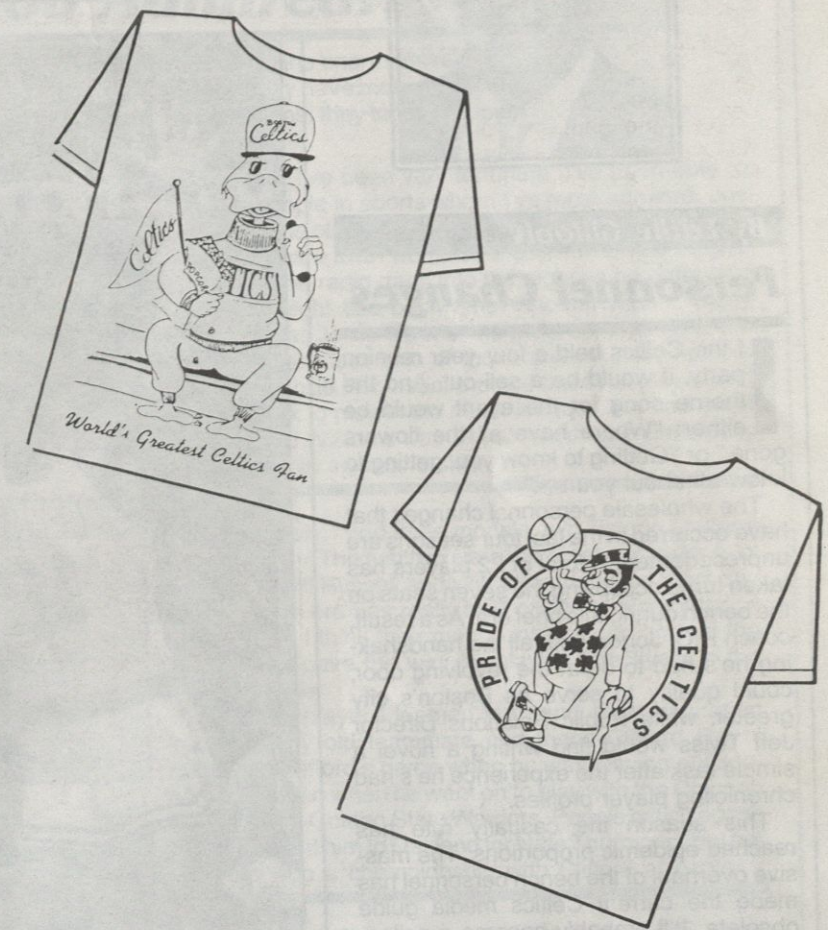
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COURTSIDE VIEW

By Eddie Gilooley

Personnel Changes

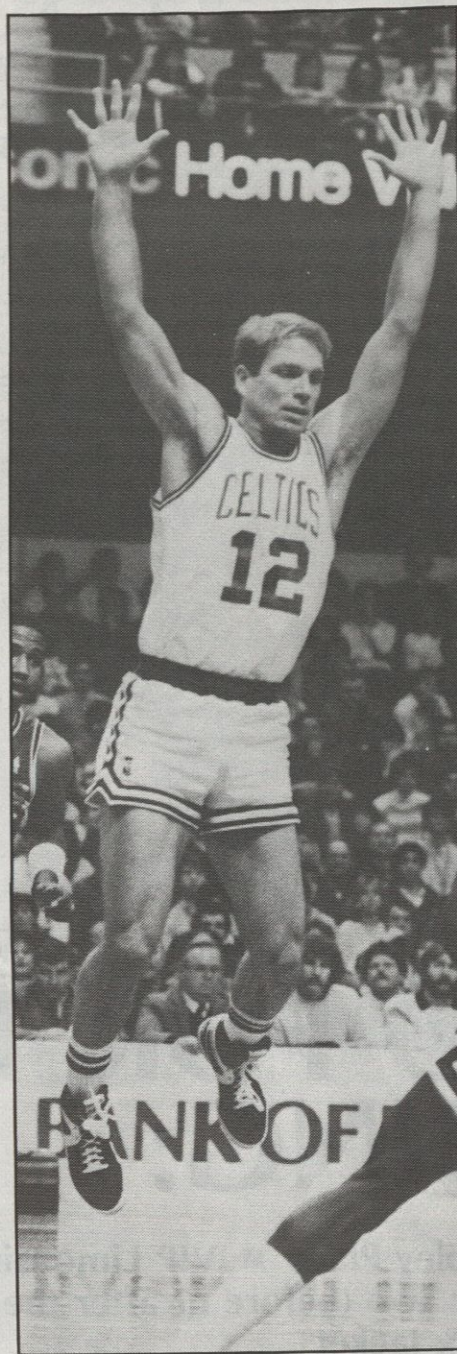
If the Celtics held a four-year reunion party, it would be a sell-out. And the theme song for the event would be either: "Where have all the flowers gone," or "Getting to know you, getting to know all about you . . ."

The wholesale personnel changes that have occurred in the last four seasons are unprecedented. A total of 22 players has taken turns occupying the seven seats on the bench during this brief era. As a result, coach K.C. Jones, with all the handshaking he's had to do at the revolving door, could qualify to serve as Boston's city greeter, while Public Relations Director Jeff Twiss would find writing a novel a simple task after the experience he's had chronicling player profiles.

This season the casualty rate has reached epidemic proportions. The massive overhaul of the bench personnel has made the current Celtics media guide obsolete. It'll probably become a collector's item with its many inserts. Of the 15 players featured in the guide, printed just last October, only seven remain on the roster. They are Larry Bird, Robert Parish, Kevin McHale, Dennis Johnson, Danny Ainge, Fred Roberts and rookie Reggie Lewis.

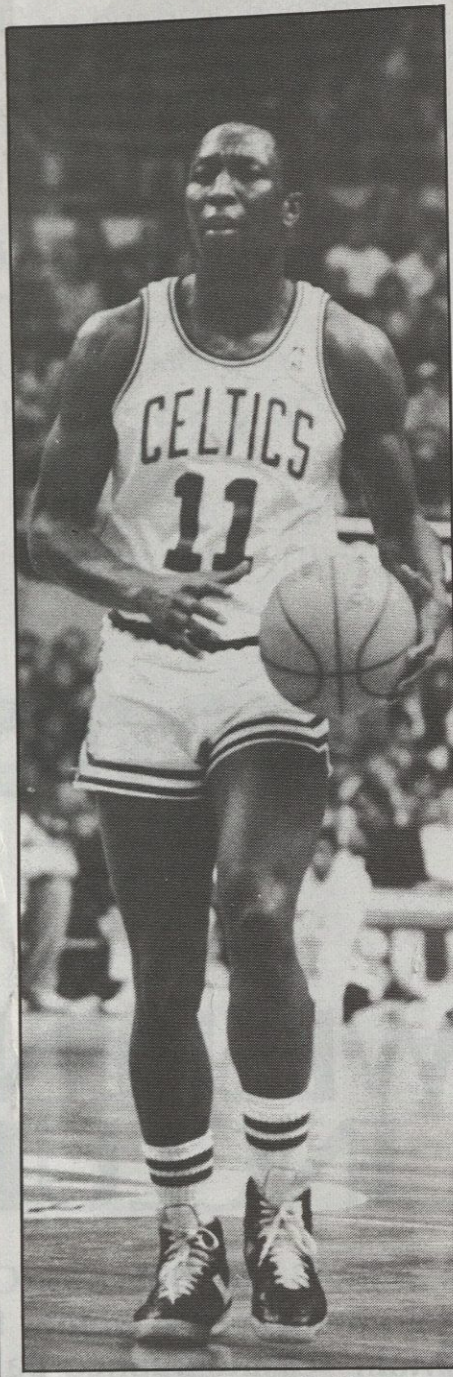
Gone are Scott Wedman (retired), Bill Walton (injured), Rick Carlisle (N.Y. Knicks), Sam Vincent (Chicago Bulls), Greg Kite (LA Clippers), Conner Henry (free agent), Darren Daye (free agent) and Jerry Sichting (Portland Trail Blazers). Wedman and Vincent were traded in October to Seattle (Sam has since been traded to Chicago), Carlisle was the last cut in training camp, Henry was released in December, Kite in January, and Daye and Sichting in February.

Replacing them on the roster, and as inserts in the Guide, are rookies Mark Acres and Brad Lohaus, free agents Dirk



Sichting: Hard to Guard Taller Players

Minniefeld and Artis Gilmore, and Jim Paxson. Wedman, Walton (he'll probably return), Carlisle and Vincent were not with the team at the start of the season.



Dirk Minniefeld: Strong Outings

The Celtics 20-man roster this season even exceeds the 18 man rosters in the disastrous seasons of 1977-78 and '78-79, when owner John Y. Brown was fiddling

and diddling with the personnel, much to the chagrin of Red Auerbach.

All seven reserves from the 1986 Championship team are gone. The bench that sensational season was Walton, Wedman, Sichting, Vincent, Kite, Carlisle and David Thirdkill. Sly Williams also played six games that year.

In the 1984-85 season, when Gerry Henderson was traded to Seattle for a first round draft choice (Len Bias) and Danny Ainge became the fifth starter, the Celtic roster consisted of the five starters, Cedric Maxwell, Wedman, Kite, Carlisle, Carlos Clark, M.L. Carr and Quinn Buckner. Ray Williams joined the team late in the season and played 23 games.

It has been a worthwhile experience for many. Of the 15 former players in the last four years, only Daye, Henry, Sly Williams and Ray Williams failed to enjoy "that championship feeling." None of the current members of the bench has ever been fitted for a championship ring, and only Roberts has played in a championship series.

There's no question the Celtics have upgraded the quality of the bench, but no matter how well Paxson and Gilmore play through the end of the season, the contributions of Walton, Wedman and Sichting in the 1985-86 season will not be matched. Paxson and Gilmore need a lot of playing time to become familiar and comfortable with the Celtics style of play, just as did Walton, Wedman, Sichting and Dennis Johnson. All of these veterans needed time and minutes to blend with the starters.

The pressure will be on Paxson and Gilmore during the next month, because they have much to learn in a short period of time. Gilmore appears to be getting the "feel" for the Celtics style and his game should improve with each outing as Walton did in his first season with the Celtics.

Paxson had a toe injury and wasn't activated until January 16. He only played in 17 games for a total of 263 minutes with Portland before being traded. He's faced with a double task of getting his own game together and learning the Celtics' plays and defensive strategies.

No matter, the addition of these two veterans will help the overall play of the bench immeasurably. Acres and Lohaus continue to improve and Minniefeld has provided some strong outings in the backcourt. With the easing of the pressure, their contributions should become greater.

If Walton can make a comeback before April, the Celtics bench could be a real positive factor in the playoffs. With the tall centers and a 6-5 Paxson, Jones won't be faced with many matchup problems in the front court or the backcourt.

The loss of Sichting was disheartening, because he was a quality person as well as a quality player, but the Celtics did gain some height in the back court, which is needed in the league. Sichting was a great matchup on defense against the smaller guards.

Not forgotten either is the fact the Celtics have a new team doctor and trainer this season.

People keep coming and going, but one thing is constant with the Celtics — winning. The starting five is the best in the business as a unit. Normally, with this kind of turnover rate, a team would be in turmoil. Much credit belongs to K.C. Jones. He's been able to make one adjustment after another to overcome the handicaps of new personnel. No coach has ever before had so many changes in four years.

CELTICS PERSPECTIVE

What Sports Figures Have You Admired?

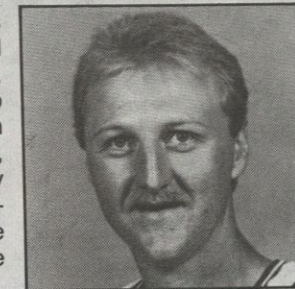
Who do the Celtics themselves admire in the world of sports? The wide-ranging popularity of sports today, due to the enormous reach of cable television has made sports personalities an important source for role models in the society. The kids today have more access to sports people than ever before and on a more consistent basis. The Celtics grew up with similar dreams and ambitions: they too drew upon their favorite teams and players for inspiration.

Bill Walton: I grew up in Southern California wanting to play two styles of basketball, and I've been lucky enough to play them. One was John Wooden's UCLA fast-breaking style. John Wooden was a man I always respected, and I was fortunate to have played for him and I still consider him a friend. Even before that however, I loved the way the Boston Celtics played basketball. My idol was Bill Russell when I was growing up. I thought he had a total understanding of the complete game, and it was the type of thing that kept me practicing.



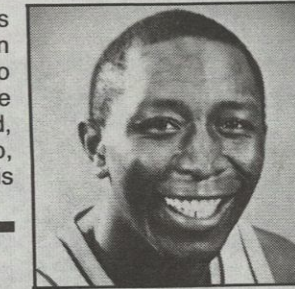
Bill Walton

Larry Bird: I always appreciated the way great teams played when I was growing up. I respected the Celtics and Red Auerbach's teams, and since I've been in Boston, naturally I've met everyone associated with the team. Two players I respected were Bill Walton, when he played with UCLA and Dave Cowens in Boston. They played hard, they had intensity underneath and could score and they were winners. I've stated publicly and sincerely my respect for Bobby Orr, the former Bruins' hockey player. He was a revolutionary defenseman when he played, and he has had great class after sports.



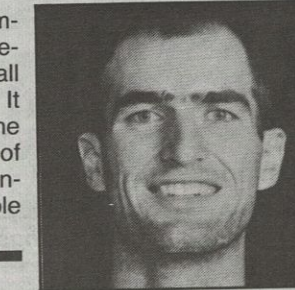
Larry Bird

Dirk Minniefeld: The sports figure I admired most was O. J. Simpson, the former running back with Southern California and with the Buffalo Bills and San Francisco 49ers. The man could play! He had awesome speed, the ability to change directions while running at full speed, and power. I thought O. J. was a class act off the field, too, a man who had style but also had an understanding of his meaning to kids who grew up idolizing him.



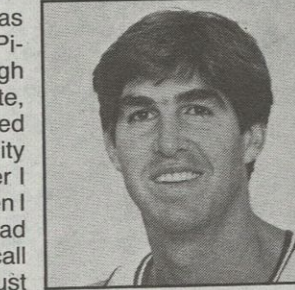
Dirk Minniefeld

Fred Roberts: The player I respect the most is a contemporary one, Don Mattingly of the New York Yankees baseball club. He's a worker and he's done extremely well in all areas of the game, including financially and artistically. It doesn't look to me as if it's easy to play in New York, but he appears to cope with that. His batting swing is a thing of beauty and he's a superior fielder. He waited it out contractually and now he's getting great money. The whole situation is something I respect.



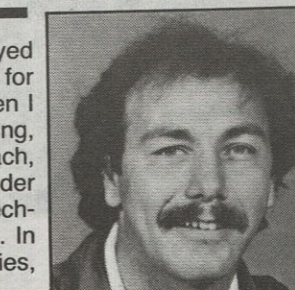
Fred Roberts

Mark Acres: The player I most admired when I was growing up was Roberto Clemente of the Pittsburgh Pirates baseball club. In fact, I liked the whole Pittsburgh team of that era, with their slugging team of Clemente, Dave Parker (later) and Willie Stargell. I just respected the way Clemente played — he had great spirit, versatility on the field, things like hitting to right field. I remember I was delivering newspapers as a kid in Los Angeles when I looked down at the paper and saw that his plane had crashed (in 1973) and there were no survivors. I recall reading the newspaper account of the crash, and it just about broke me.

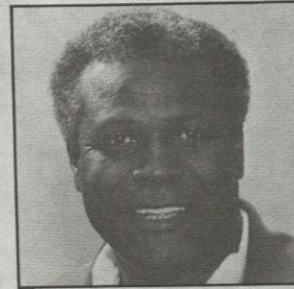


Mark Acres

Chris Ford: I have had the good fortune to have played for several esteemed coaches. In college, I played for Jack Kraft and in the pros I played for Bill Fitch when I came to Boston in 1979. In terms of basketball thinking, the man in sports history I most admire is Red Auerbach, and obviously I've had the opportunity both to play under him and work for him. He's a genius in two areas: technically he's the best fundamentalist in the business. In terms of building teams based on players' personalities, there has never been anyone like him.

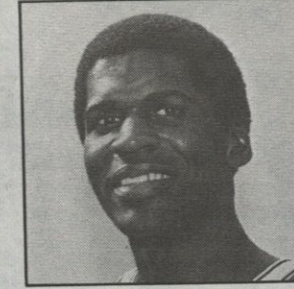


Chris Ford



K.C. Jones

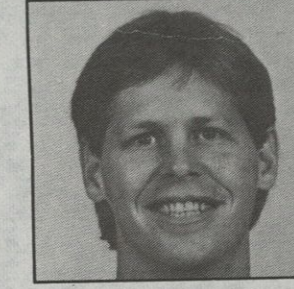
K.C. Jones: I've been very fortunate. I've been able to meet the people in sports whom I've most admired. Joe Louis was one of my first idols; when I was growing up in Texas the entire town would shut down when he fought, listening to the radio deep into the night as he defended his heavyweight title each time. Another man I totally respected was Jesse Owens, the great sprinter. I had the opportunity to meet both of those men. A third hero of mine was Jackie Robinson, the late baseball player and the first black to play in the major leagues. He had great courage. Ted Williams was a final role model, principally because of his awesome skill.



Robert Parish

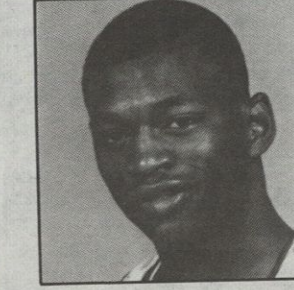
Robert Parish: I had three models, two historic and one contemporary. The first two were the great competitors of the sixties, Bill Russell and Wilt Chamberlain. I think any center of this era has really built on the moves of those players, and I think their mental intensity on and off the floor helped pave the way for playing effectively in the modern game.

The other player I learned from and drew inspiration from was my old teammate and friend Clifford Ray. I respected Clifford's game when he was playing at Oklahoma and then when he went on to play with the Chicago Bulls and the Golden State Warriors. People criticized the trade that sent him to Oakland for Nate Thurmond, but the Warriors won a championship with Clifford at center.



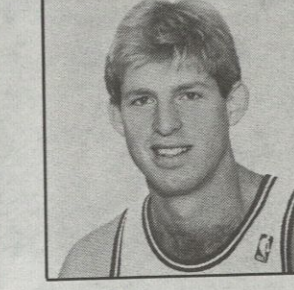
Danny Ainge

Danny Ainge: The athlete I respected most was Steve Prefontaine, the distance runner. When I was growing up in Eugene, Oregon, I was one of a whole community that would scream and cheer for Prefontaine when he raced against other champion runners such as Jim Ryan, Kip Keino or Marty Liquori in the mile, the 5,000 meters or the 10,000 meters. Prefontaine never lost in Eugene . . . I respected his discipline and his all-out approach to running every race.



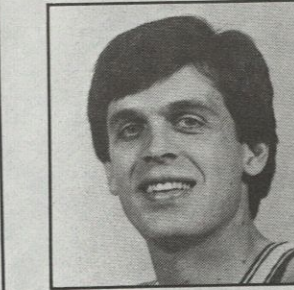
Reggie Lewis

Reggie Lewis: The player I admired most was George Gervin of the San Antonio Spurs. He was my idol; I used to watch him when I was growing up in Baltimore and he'd play the Washington Bullets in the Cap Centre. His ability to score was impressive and his finger roll shot heading down the lane was something I really loved. The Spurs of those years were a fun team and they were an effective team. They were able to play together well without sacrificing their individuality.



Brad Lohaus

Brad Lohaus: When I was in high school I had the opportunity to meet the player I admired most. Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. He was always the main man when I was developing my game. A few weeks ago I had to play him, and I was sort of awe-struck. I did my absolute best in trying to guard him. His strength, poise and productivity are matchless.



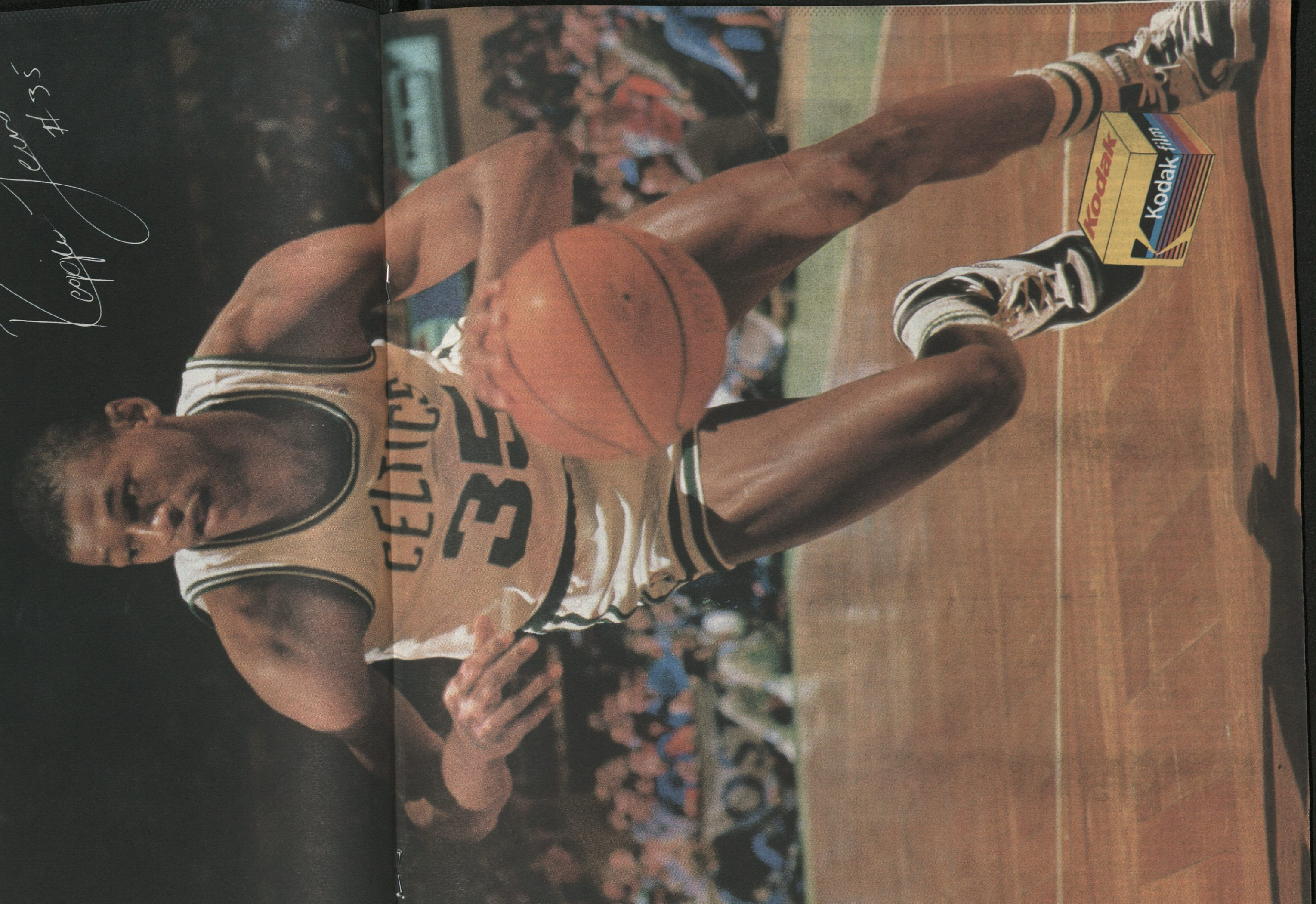
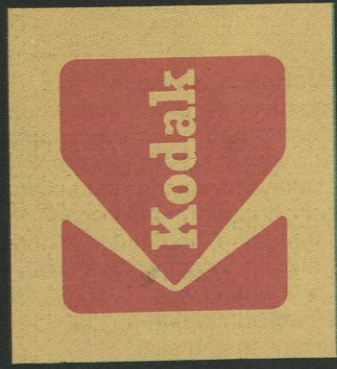
Kevin McHale

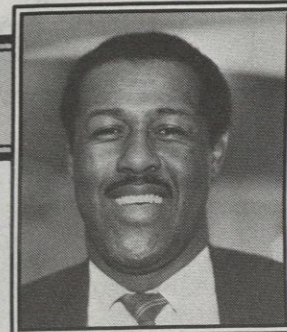
Kevin McHale: Bill Walton was a player who I wanted to model some of my game after when I was in school. His UCLA teams had great speed and tenacious defense. When Bill was in school (and later when he was in Portland), I believe he set the standard for inside pivot play. He had desire that you could see in his face. The way he played the game, and had such fun doing it, was something I always tried to follow, both when I was in high school and when I was playing at Minnesota. Also, I had always had admiration for Jack Nicklaus, for his great competitiveness and skill.





Roger Lewis #33





AS I SEE IT

By M.L. Carr

Changing Faces

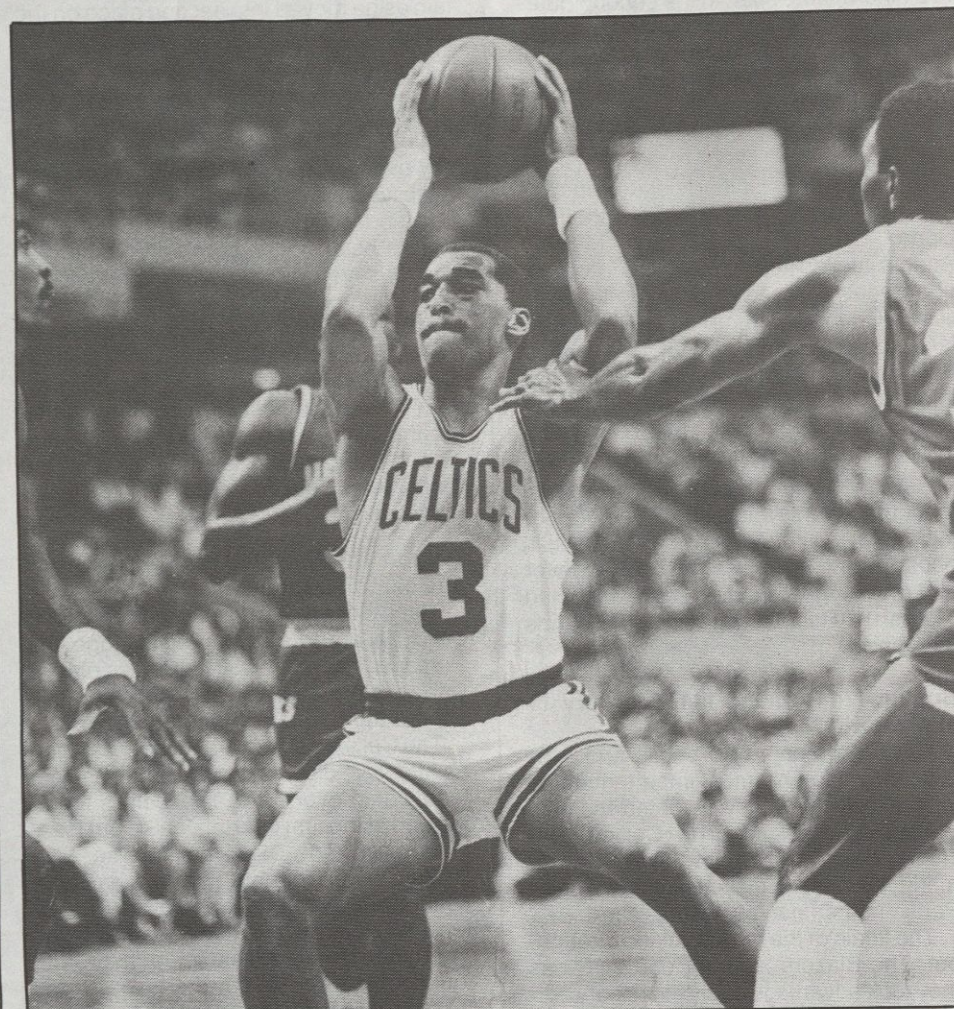
Two major player moves were made when I was playing with the Celtics, and another followed the summer after I retired from the ballclub. In all three instances, the men involved were friends of mine.

In 1983 the team brought Dennis Johnson in from Phoenix. I had met DJ when the two of us were on a cruise sponsored by the Players' Association, before he was traded here, and I was thoroughly impressed with the man. He was lively, he had enthusiasm and I knew, from playing against him, that he was talented. I think that Dennis' addition to our ballclub led directly to two championships because of how he handled himself on the floor and off. He had immediate respect from the rest of the players.

That was a specific example of addition. Yet there were other instances when the player who's been traded is part of the family, part of the winning tradition. Gerald Henderson was an example of this; before the 1984-85 season, the Celtics traded Gerald to the Seattle SuperSonics in exchange for the Sonics' 1st round draft choice (which made Jan Volk appear to be a genius, since it became a lottery pick). But it was difficult for the people involved. The team had had their frictions with Gerald and his agent, but they felt bad about having to trade him. And Gerald was devastated; he came down to my hotel room in Texas after the trade was announced and was nearly in tears. Together we sat down and reasoned out a plan of action. We knew that he had to stay positive, as positive as he could, about the whole situation. That he had to be the best Seattle SuperSonic possible — both as a player and as a prospective member of the Seattle community. Being traded — like being transferred in the business world — just isn't always an enjoyable prospect.

The Celtics have made some interesting moves in the past several weeks. They have involved trades, waivers and free agent signings. I honestly believe the team has improved — Artis Glimore is a reason to feel secure about the pivot behind Robert Parish, and Dirk Minniefield has contributed meaningfully to the team. He was instrumental when DJ was injured in mid-January, especially in back-to-back games in Chicago (against Michael Jordan) and here, versus Detroit. From what I've seen, Dirk's helped make this team better because he puts the team out front.

The most recent addition to the team, Jim Paxson, entailed a real change of faces on the ballclub. The Celtics were forced to trade Jerry Sichting and they released Darren Daye. Whenever a player leaves, the feeling of attachment — the bond which makes up the fabric of the team — is severed. That takes some real adjustment. I know in Jerry's case there



Dennis Johnson: Came Over from Phoenix

was an authentic attachment on the part of the management, too. Sichting helped this team win a championship and he

worked extremely hard in rehab after being injured this year. It's one of those things that's in the grey area — the Celtics

are an improved basketball team with the addition of Jim Paxson, but they are diminished as a family with the deletion of Jerry Sichting.

The story is always one of moving on. I know that when Cedric Maxwell was traded, after being so instrumental in championships in 1984 and 1986, there were some bruised feelings on both sides.

The same process must take place now as far as the Celtics are concerned, as they try to regain the title this season. I think that when a player comes to the team, the attitude must be to welcome the new player immediately. Make him feel he's part of something successful and growing. The ties must be extended, on and off the floor.

I believe that on the floor the Celtics will prosper (though I retain a great deal of respect for Jerry Sichting's game). Jim Paxson is a seasoned player, a man who has had playoff experience in an eight-year career. I think he helps the team in at least two specific ways: his presence allows K.C. Jones to make specific individual substitutions, and helps the team's ability to match up against taller guards. Paxson can run the floor and he has the size and strength to play the off guard. Then, K.C. might want to use Paxson as part of a shift, with Dirk Minniefield. That way he can play DJ and Danny and then come in with Dirk and Paxson. Either way, it appears that the Celtics have done a lot to improve their standing as they try to get their championship back.

Changing faces. It's something the team felt they had to do in order to compete ably for the championship. It involves making tough business decisions. It requires work, adjusting to new playing styles and personalities.

Sometimes, in spite of past glory, it's time for the sides to part. It's time to rebuild your unit and begin anew.

Boston Celtics Caribbean Cruise

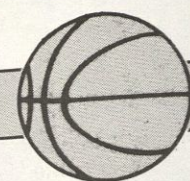
SOVEREIGN OF THE SEAS — AUGUST 27 - SEPTEMBER 3, 1988



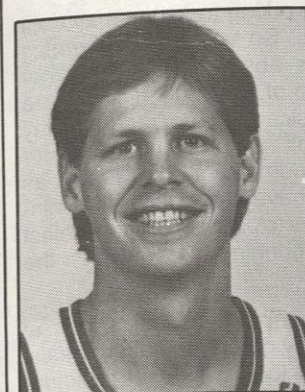
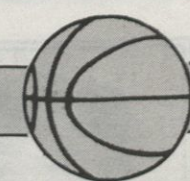
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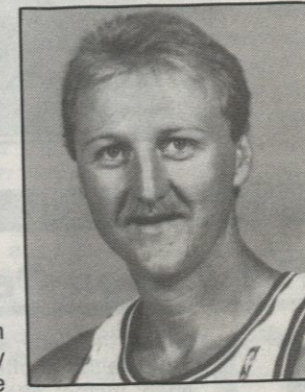
Danny Ainge

Danny Ainge, who set a three-point field goal record during the Celtics' West Coast road trip, discusses the problems with the shot and how it's become a part of his offensive game: "No question you can make mistakes with it. I took some bad ones in the game in Dallas, for example. But the thing is, it's only a bad shot if it doesn't go in. No matter how you look at it, there's a gamble involved, and that's the way it should be. That's why it can have such a devastating effect."

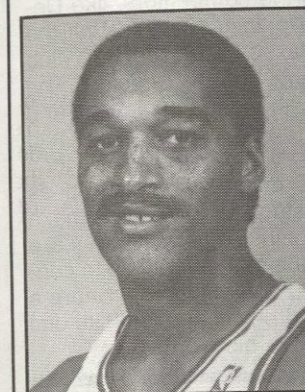
"This might sound funny, but I'm probably more comfortable taking a 3 than shooting an 18-footer. I've taken so many 3s that I just normally spot up outside the line now. The shot is actually more comfortable for me."

"It's nice to get the record. But to be honest, I don't think about it a heck of a lot. It's just part of my game."

Larry Bird on Spurs' coach Bob Weiss' idea of putting guard Alvin Robertson on him when the teams played in San Antonio: "That really ticked me off. And the guy actually acted like he was going to do something to me. I hope they do that again when they come to Boston (March 9). I'll get 50."



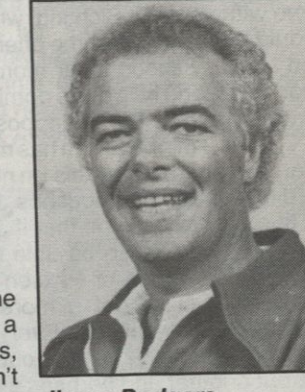
Larry Bird



Dennis Johnson

Dennis Johnson, on Joe Barry Carroll, whom the Houston Rockets acquired as part of the Ralph Sampson trade in January: "He's improved. He's passing, shooting, rebounding and moving. But things like that rub off on a player when he moves to a good team. With the players they now have, there's nowhere for them to go but up. If a guy like Joe Barry doesn't take it upon himself to fit in and grow, he's nuts."

Jimmy Rodgers describes why Mark Jackson, the rookie guard of the Knicks (who the Celtics played last week has been so effective this year: "Three reasons. One, he's on a weak team and he's gotten steady playing time all year. Two, unlike many of the others, he hasn't had to change positions. Three, he's always got the basketball and doesn't have to wait for somebody to throw it to him."



Jimmy Rodgers



APRIL

HOME AND AWAY SCHEDULE...

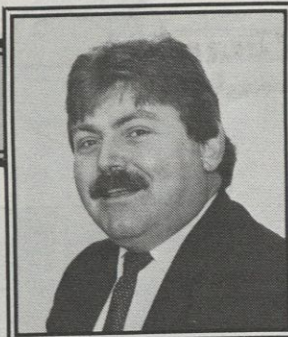
Home Games

BOSTON CELTICS



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 DETROIT PISTONS 7:30	2
3 DALLAS MAVERICKS NOON SPORTS CHANNEL	4	5	6	7	8 NEW JERSEY NETS 7:30 SPORTS CHANNEL	9
10 PHILADELPHIA 76ers 12:30 WVLI-TV56	11	12	13 MILWAUKEE BUCKS 7:30 WVLI-TV56	14	15 CLEVELAND CAVS 7:30 WVLI-TV56	16
17 WASHINGTON BULLETS 3:30 WVLI-TV56	18	19 DETROIT PISTONS 7:30 SPORTS CHANNEL	20	21 CHICAGO BULLS 7:30 SPORTS CHANNEL	22 ATLANTA HAWKS 7:30 WVLI-TV56	23
24 CHICAGO BULLS 3:30 WVLI-TV56	25	26	27	28	29	30





CALLING THE GAME

By Glenn Ordway

The Paxson Deal

One thing that Jim Paxson brings to the Celtics is offense off the bench; instant offense at that. Over the last month and a half, this is something that has been missing. Now, granted, they've played some of that time without Jerry Sichting, who probably would have supplied some offense as well, but I think Paxson is far more explosive than Jerry, and he's more dominant, to the extent that he's 6-6, as opposed to 6-1. Overall, I think Paxson has more assets than Jerry had, but by this I in no way want to diminish the contributions Jerry made to this ballclub. I think that if Jerry came back, he would also be able to help the club. But because of Paxson's height, I think the Celtics get a more complete package than with Jerry. Everybody talks about Jim as being a great outside shooter, but another and perhaps greater attribute is that he comes off picks better than anyone I've seen in a while. Boston, fortunately plays the exact type of game that will allow Paxson to show his stuff. Before Clyde Drexler got to Portland, their whole offense was just swinging Paxson around (without the ball) and setting him up off the pick and letting him pull up and hit the 15-18-foot jumper. I don't think you can set the whole offense up around him, but he plays the way that Larry likes to play: lots of rotation, and easy drives into the lane.

Like Larry, and like Danny Ainge, he moves well without the ball. He'll be able to blend in much better with a good passing team, and this again prompted the Celtics to make the deal. Obviously, they are one of the better passing teams in the NBA. He'll be able to fit into the half-court Celtics game much better than in Portland's, with their constant running attack. Even though Paxson does run well, I think his game is made to order for the Celtics.

It will take time for him to be totally familiar with the system, because when you're dealing with a guy who does move well without the ball, instincts become that much more important. Everyone has to be at the right place at the right time, and everyone has to be very familiar with what they're doing on the floor. This is a matter of familiarity with each other and will require some time for the fine-tuning to occur. So much of the Celtics game is instinctive — you can see it out there, particularly when DJ makes those lightning-fast passes to Bird when he's cutting to the basket after losing his man. There's no real communication taking place that anyone can see or hear — it's all instinct. Now, Paxson is just going to have to start picking that up off the other players, and that will take a little time.

There should be enough of the regular season left to have these instincts develop in time for the playoffs. Once he

does start feeling comfortable with this team, Jim Paxson is going to be a major contributor to this ballclub.

I still think the Celtics need that big rebounder to come in for eight or ten minutes and dominate off the boards. If Bill Walton is healthy in time, that is exactly what he'll give them. Paxson gives them that other missing ingredient, and that's offense off the bench.

Defensively, Paxson is also good, although we don't hear a lot about it. In the Detroit game, he shut down Vinnie Johnson, and when was the last time you saw Vinnie Johnson go scoreless against the Celtics, especially in Detroit? Now I think Jerry Sichting was Boston's best one-on-one defensive ballplayer, but again, Boston likes to play the team defense, where everybody helps everybody else out, and

National Basketball Association

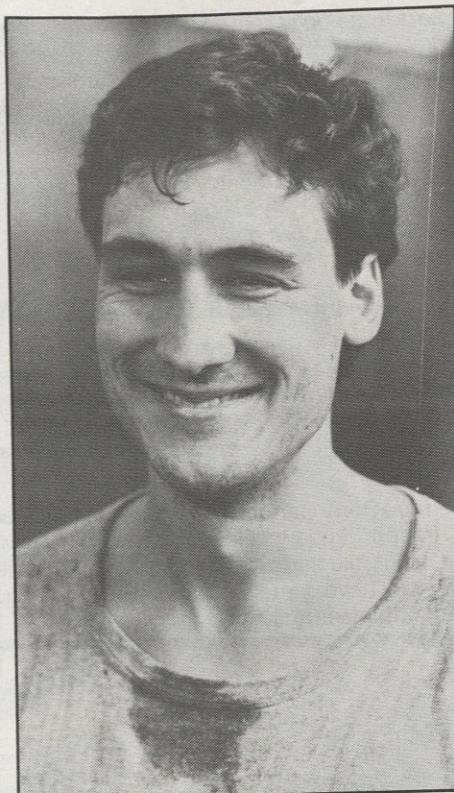
1988 Draft Choices

First Round

Atlanta	Own
Boston	Own
Chicago	Own or Seattle; if Seattle elects to exchange; may have New Jersey (if not a lottery choice)
Cleveland	Own
Dallas	Own
Denver	Own
Detroit	To Phoenix (Bedford 6/21/87)
Golden State	Own
Houston	Own
Indiana	Own
LA Clippers	Own plus Sacramento
LA Lakers	Own
Milwaukee	Own
New Jersey	Own or to Chicago (Woolridge 10/2/86)
New York	Own
Philadelphia	Own or returns Washington's pick back to Washington (M. Malone, Caledige—Ruland, C. Robinson 6/16/86)
Phoenix	Own plus Detroit
Portland	Own
Sacramento	To LA Clippers (D. Smith, Edwards, Bridgeman—L. Drew, Woodson 8/19/86)
San Antonio	Own
Seattle	Own or Chicago
Utah	Own
Washington	To Philadelphia (Sewell 6/19/84); has choice of picks from Philadelphia

Second Round

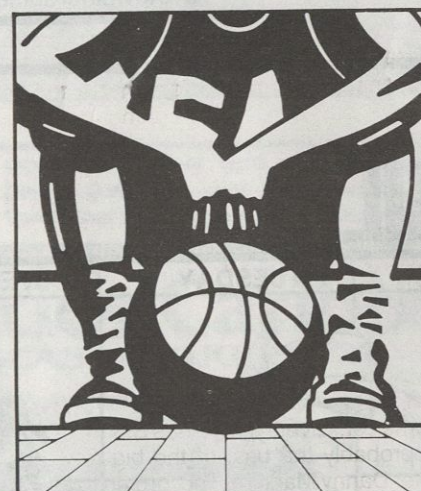
Atlanta	Own
Boston	To Dallas (exchange of choices 5/1/85)
Chicago	To Denver (E. Turner 10/4/86); has Indiana, New Jersey; choice to San Antonio (Gilmore 6/22/87); choice to N.Y. (Sparrow 11/12/87)
Cleveland	Own
Dallas	Own plus Boston
Denver	Own plus Chicago
Detroit	Own; choice from New York
Golden State	To Milwaukee (D. Nelson 12/29/87); has Houston
Houston	To Golden State (L. Conner 10/10/87)
Indiana	To Chicago (Macy 9/18/86)
LA Clippers	Own or Portland
LA Lakers	To Phoenix (M. Lucas 8/19/85)
Milwaukee	Own plus Golden State
New Jersey	To Chicago (Woolridge 10/2/86); has Philadelphia
New York	Own or to Chicago (Oldham 10/30/86); has choice from Sacramento; choice to Detroit (S. Green 10/28/87); choice from Chicago
Philadelphia	To New Jersey (A. King 11/24/87); has San Antonio choice
Phoenix	To Sacramento (Pinkney—E. Johnson 6/21/87); has LA Lakers
Portland	Own or LA Clippers
Sacramento	Own plus Phoenix; choice to New York (Oldham 10/15/87)
San Antonio	To Philadelphia (McNamara 11/4/83); choice from Chicago
Seattle	Own
Utah	Own
Washington	Own



Paxson: Poses Problems to Opponents

when they're working together, they do it very, very well. So you lose something with Sichting's absence. On the other hand, because of Paxson's size, he's a little more physical, he's not afraid to play that way and will be a problem not only for Detroit, but a number of other teams as well. What will have to happen is that Minniefield will have to pick it up a little against those players bringing the ball down the court.

I think that's how the Celtics look at things when they go about making deals. First, I think they look at the overall picture and think what this guy will do for the team in the long run. However, they also look at what effect the particular player will have on the stiffer of the competitors, like Detroit and Atlanta for instance. What will the addition of a Paxson mean for the club against opponents like Los Angeles? The Celtics will look ahead to the playoffs and to the Finals of both the conference and the league, and try to determine how they can present as difficult a match-up as possible. For instance if the Celtics make it to the Finals against, say, Los Angeles, a key to some of the games may be to contain Byron Scott, and this is just where a relatively tall and physical talent like Jim Paxson may prove his worth.



"D.J. dribbles to the top of the key. He's fiddlin' and diddlin' to the outside!"

Time's running out. D.J. throws a wrap-around pass to YOU! Two seconds left. You shoot it. If it goes...the Celtics are the world champions and you are the hero!

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Mike Francesca and Marty Blake See '88 as the Year of the Big Guard

The Experts Agree

Mike Francesca, CBS commentator, and Marty Blake, scouting director of the NBA are in agreement in their assessment of the 1988 draft. This will be the year of the big guard. Even though Kansas wunderkind Danny Manning will be the first player chosen, a rapid succession of guards will follow. Both gentlemen were kind enough to take some time and speak with *Celtics Pride* recently. In a sort of analytic ping-pong, we present their views on assorted draft-related subjects.

The lottery system

Marty feels he's heard enough about the lottery system in relation to the upcoming draft. He feels there is a misconception regarding the system because "you have seven teams who don't make the playoffs, who will then draw to pick first, second or third. After the third pick, the other four teams pick in the reverse order of their records. In other words, if you have a lousy record, you will pick fourth. So, there is in reality only one lottery player per draft and that's Danny Manning. Last year it was David Robinson. Agents, who now claim if a guy's picked sixth he's a lottery player, are creating a misconception, because their clients in reality are just guys picked sixth." Still, the first round of the draft ought to be exciting.

Players to watch

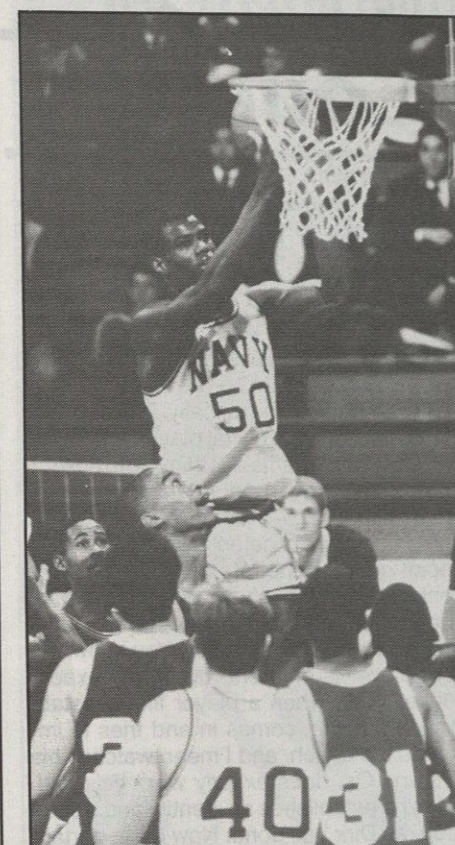
Although Kansas has had a tough year, Danny Manning is still the prize of the draft. "The fact that Kansas has lost three players to various problems has actually to help Manning's game," says Mike. "He has been keyed on defensively for the whole college season and is still effective. It can only help in his transition to the NBA game."

Gary Grant is another favorite of our contributors. "I see Gary Grant as possibly the second player picked in the draft. He's strong and quick, plays tremendous defense and should be welcomed by any club out there," said Mike. Marty concurs. "Although there are no true point guards in this draft, Gary Grant is a very, very good athlete, who's somewhat of a quasi-point guard."

Other guards our panel of two agrees on are: Vernon Maxwell of Florida: "He's a very quick, flexible player who may be able to play two positions," said Mike. The rest are Mitch Richmond of Kansas State, Ricky Berry of San José State, Willie Anderson of Georgia, Jeff Grayer of Iowa State, Vinnie Del Negro of N.C. State and Derrick Chievous of Missouri. These players will have to be able to learn the NBA system, and this will take time. As Marty said, "We're victims of what I call the 'immediate gratification syndrome.' By that I mean we expect players to step in and play right away. Sampson and McCray, four years ago, went numbers one and three in the draft, and Houston finished last. There are no saviors."

Are there any big men out there?

Maybe yes, maybe no. The consensus seems to be Wil Perdue of Vanderbilt, who, in Marty's estimation, is "the best of the centers available, which doesn't really mean anything." Rik Smits of Marist rouses some interest in both men. Marty thought that "Smits has a very big up-



David Robinson: Last Year's Prize

side, though he's probably still three or four years away." Mike agrees with that assessment, adding that "although he doesn't dominate, the fact that a ton of NBA scouts appear at his games must tell you something." In the never-ending quest for talented big men, the NBA can also look in the direction of José Vargas of LSU and Eric Leckner of Wyoming, who, according to Francesca "just isn't getting the ball enough out there to show what he can do."

Forwards in reverse

In the power forward department, only one name seems to emerge and it causes some controversy. "Charles Smith, of Pitt, is probably the best of the big forwards after Danny Manning," according to Marty, but Mike seems to have his doubts. "I have some reservations about Charles. He seems to disappear too often during the games I've seen him in, and this is something you just can't do in the NBA. I think Dean Garrett from Indiana will be a pleasant surprise for whomever drafts him. He comes from a good program and he comes to play." With Derrick Chievous already being projected as a guard, there is one name left in the small forward category, and that's Chris Morris of Auburn.

Sleepers and Question Marks

Marty Blake sees two prominent players as no more than question marks in the upcoming draft: Rony Seikaly of Syracuse: "He never plays well against somebody his own size," and David Rivers of Notre Dame fame, who "is only 5-11 and shoots the ball every time he gets his hands on it. He carries Notre Dame, for whatever that's worth. He's a second round choice at best."

Mike Francesca was quick to point out a sleeper though, in Mark Bryant of Seton Hall. "I see him as a power forward in the NBA. He's had some big games for an

improving ball club. Chris Morris of Auburn might also be a sleeper, in that we don't hear much about him, but Auburn has a way of turning out quality NBA talent."

On last year's Celtics draft

The final point of agreement between Mike and Marty is in the productivity of last year's draft picks by the Celtics. In summation, Marty Blake had these thoughts: "The Celtics were very lucky in getting Lewis and Lohaus. People made a mistake on Lohaus. They were the same people who did not take Kevin Duckworth, who is now starting for Portland. You know, four years ago, Boston didn't have too many full-time scouts; now they have four full-timers who are literally scouring the world for talent."

The shape of '88

By way of a summary to Mike's observations, *Celtics Pride* asked what he saw shaping up in this year's cham-

pionship drive. "I think the Celtics did well by picking up Paxson. He'll give them that extra punch coming off the bench, and will provide the spark when the Celtics go into a shooting slump. I think if they have someone to give them a quick ten or twelve when they're off their game, they would be in very good shape. Their starting five is as good as you could ever hope them to be, and I think they're enough in their prime that they can get by with their five if they have that one confident scorer off the bench."

Now, in the West, I don't think anyone would derail the Lakers, except maybe Houston, but they'd have to have everything together to do it. I don't think the Mavericks can do it, because they'd be trying to beat them at their own game, so the Lakers will probably cruise. In the East, the only team I give a chance to is Detroit. Atlanta just doesn't have the half-court game necessary to win in the playoffs. I think Atlanta's best games are behind them."

Announcing . . .

The 2nd Annual KODAK/CELTICS PRIDE PHOTO CONTEST



Here's How You Can Win a Chance to Photograph a Game from Courtside

All you have to do is send us your best sports-oriented photograph and you could be a winner. Five lucky first place finishers will receive a courtside pass to photograph a Celtics game in the Boston Garden.

In addition, the following prizes will be awarded to first place finishers:

- a new Kodak K 12 35mm camera
- a personally autographed 20" x 30" color photo enlargement of their favorite Celtic
- "Home of the Brave," the 1986-87 Celtics videotape
- a complimentary 1-year subscription to CELTICS PRIDE
- Kodak film

Second and third place finishers will receive:

- a personally autographed 20" x 30" color photo enlargement of their favorite Celtic
- "Home of the Brave," the 1986-87 Celtics videotape
- a complimentary 1-year subscription to CELTICS PRIDE
- Kodak film

One lucky grand prize winner will be selected from the field of first place finishers. That person will receive the following exciting prizes:

- an authentic NBA game ball autographed by the entire Celtics team.
- 2 tickets to a Celtics home playoff game.
- a Celtics warm-up jacket.
- 2 tickets to a Celtics home game preceded by dinner at "Blades and Boards," the Celtics and Bruins private club located in Boston Garden.

Entry Rules

1. The contest is open to amateur photographers only.
2. Black-and-white and color photographs are eligible.
3. Prints and slides will be accepted.
4. Photographs must have a sports-oriented theme. They do not necessarily have to be basketball related.
5. Any number of photographs may be entered. Contestants name, address and telephone number(s) must be written clearly on the back of each print and/or accompanied with each slide. Mail or hand deliver your entries to:

KODAK/CELTICS PRIDE PHOTO CONTEST
c/o The Boston Celtics
150 Causeway Street
Boston, MA 02114

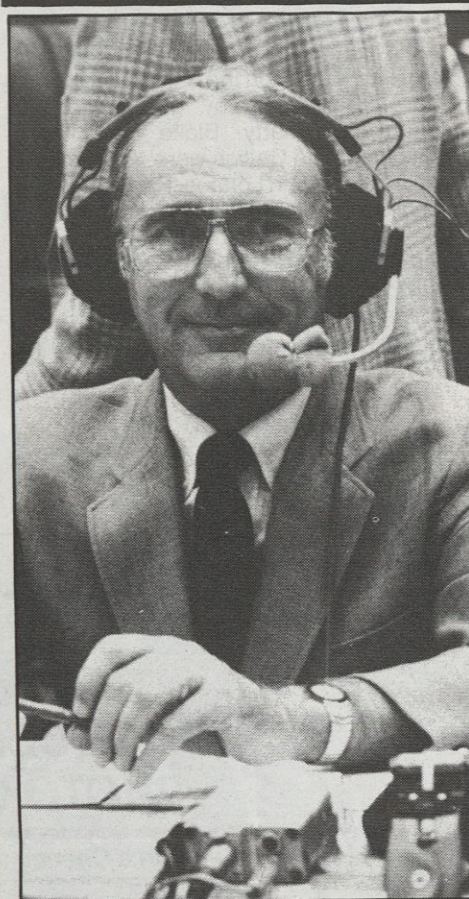
6. Entries will not be accepted after March 1, 1988.
7. Pictures will be available for pick-up at the above address until April 1, 1988. ALL UNCLAIMED PICTURES WILL NOT BE RETAINED.
8. A total of 5-first, 5-second and 5-third place finishers will be selected. One set of winners will be selected each month beginning Nov. 1, 1987.
9. Neither Kodak or Celtics Pride will be responsible for transportation to or from games to be photographed.



INTERVIEW

Bob Cousy Looks at the Playoff Push

Holding Court



Bob Cousy: Optimistic About This Season

Bob Cousy needs no introduction to Celtics fans, or to fans of basketball in general. His perspective on Celtics' basketball, qualified by his experiences as a player and coach on the college and professional levels and now as a broadcaster/color commentator, is one that commands respect and attention. Furthermore, his willingness to be open and direct in his observations is always refreshing and welcome. *Celtics Pride* spoke with Bob Cousy on the off-day following the Celtics' road win over San Antonio on February 10th.

CELTICS PRIDE: What's your overall assessment of the Celtics to this point in the season?

COUSY: I think they're doing well. I think they're probably not doing as well as they think they should be doing, or as the people who are close to them think they should be doing. But sometimes both the players themselves and the media that covers them get to be a little too demanding. I was just checking statistics — despite their inconsistency on the road, I notice that there are only two teams in the league that are presently over .500 in road record, Boston and L.A. So...

CELTICS PRIDE: Is that a big change from last year, as far as road record, or just a general drop-off over the last few years?

COUSY: I would guess that perhaps as few as four or five teams were over .500 last season, if that. I'm not certain on it. But as I say, we have a tendency to get too close to the trees, because we know what this team is capable of doing, and you get to expect them to do it every game; and it just doesn't happen that way. In any event, I think they've gotta be pleased. They have the two factors that still need help, though: consistency and the bench. You know the question — are the older players pacing themselves at all because the bench has been inconsistent? One kind of feeds on the other. I think as K.C. starts to develop more confidence in the people he's using on the bench, and their consistency improves that, in turn, will affect the starters. It'll push them a little bit to not pace themselves so much, knowing that it's not necessary. So, the big problem that existed last year, the weakness of the bench, still remains as a problem this year. But I continue to be optimistic about our young people.

CELTICS PRIDE: Yes, especially last week with Lohaus and Acres...

COUSY: Yes; the fact that Lohaus and Acres have performed well and physically done some things proves that they are capable of doing them, as opposed to some of the other bench people whose limitations are known now. At this point in a veteran's career he's not going to show you or do things that he's not capable of doing. With these kids we're not certain yet. Lohaus and Acres, in my opinion, both had their moments, and were quite impressive. They do lack the consistency of a veteran player. If they continue to make the normal progress, both in terms of functioning on the floor and in confidence, then, if we can count on them for more consistency in the playoffs, this is exactly what this team needs.

coaches think. So I don't know, I think he's certainly shown enough where I'm sure the Celtics want to give him another shot at it next year. But I mean, unless people go down, I don't think Reggie is going to be used a great deal this year.

CELTICS PRIDE: And Minniefield? How do you assess him?

COUSY: I think, realistically, Dirk can continue to be kind of a vital player, as long as he stays within himself. I think up to now, he has simply keyed on what K.C. needed from him, which was basically to play a harassing type of defense on the opposing point guard, penetrate and dish off, take only the shot that shows. And this is what he's done, and this is why he has functioned so effectively for us. You know, every player is different, but in my experience, I find when a player finally establishes a niche, comes in and tries to impress the coach, and I mean watches his Ps and Qs, does *exactly* what he's told, then he establishes an identity and a position, as Dirk has done. Now it's important for him not to get carried away with this status that he's achieved and try to do things that he is not capable of. Because then his weaknesses will show up.

To some degree, I think this happened last night. Not for this reason, perhaps, but Dirk can be, I think, exploited under extreme pressure. You know, he is a little too quick for himself. And I'm not certain how steady he may be with the ball. I really have to see more of him. You know, up to now everything I've seen has been positive, until last night, when he showed some weaknesses; but the point is, he has been to six teams. And six coaches haven't been wrong. Like every other player he has strengths and, obviously, weaknesses. And what he must do is simply continue to key on the strengths, and not get carried away and try to get into areas where he's not capable of functioning well. And I think he can continue to play a role.

CELTICS PRIDE: What's your assessment of the other playoff contenders in the East and how the Celtics match up against them: Detroit, Atlanta...?

COUSY: I don't know, I kind of lean toward Atlanta giving us more trouble. They may still have somewhat of a maturing process to go through. I have no idea why they self-destructed last year. I know Detroit has played well against us. They're a physical team, and that's something that we've gotten away from. But both teams are physical. Atlanta not quite as physical in terms of a mean sense, but by the same token, I think they have younger, stronger bodies, perhaps. So Dominique is more of a force.

I continue to think that Isiah is, perhaps the most spectacular point guard in the league, but I also continue to believe that he has not matured to the point where he can bring a team into the finals. Based on last year, he should have — in all fairness, Detroit should have beaten us. You can't count on two guys banging their heads together in the last game. If those two kids didn't bang heads and obviously, if Isiah didn't throw the ball away in Game Five, he

would've had them in the finals last year; but the point is, he didn't, and part of it was his fault... Both of them can give us problems, as they already have. Both of them are capable of beating us in playoffs, as certainly Detroit proved last year, in coming that close. I just think Atlanta perhaps will be, well, they'll both be motivated, although Atlanta, after having that destructive playoff last year, will perhaps be even more so. We, obviously, would have to be at our best against either one. If we are, I think we can beat either one. We need the help from the strong bodies, and that brings us back again to Lohaus and Acres, and perhaps even Bill Walton.

CELTICS PRIDE: Do you prefer your role as broadcaster and commentator as opposed to being more directly involved as a coach?

COUSY: Oh, God, yes!

CELTICS PRIDE: Yes? Why? You would never do that again?

COUSY: No. I enjoyed my coaching experience on a college level. On a professional level, I don't think the satisfaction is as great, only because I don't think you have that kind of impact on the overall situation. In fact, as a general statement, that's true all the way down the line. You have more to do with it on the high school level than you do on the college level, etc., as you move up. But it's more of a job on this level. And if you're out of work, I would recommend broadcasting to any of my friends. I find that talking about it is a great deal more enjoyable and easier than coaching it. And it helps you to live a hell of a lot longer. You can't, it just seems to me, that you can't put the nervous system and the body through that type of constant strain. And over an eight-month period. The emotional ups and downs you go through half a dozen times, literally, in every game, without doing some irreparable damage somewhere along the line. You know, coaches aren't falling over, but...

CELTICS PRIDE: Well, we don't really know what they're feeling inside, as you say, and it is wreaking havoc with their family lives and everything else as well, I'm sure...

COUSY: Yes, and as much as we all root for the Celtics, 20 minutes after the game is over, I'm usually sitting down with my colleagues, having a drink and a steak or something, rather than sitting up in my room, swilling down scotch, trying to forget what just occurred, which is what I used to do in Kansas City. I think if you're in a positive situation, like the Celtics or obviously, L.A. ... but they're the two exceptions. And there's 23, soon to be 27, teams. I think coaching on this level really puts you through a strainer because most of the teams are not winning and you're doing it so continually that it takes such a commitment on your part, if you're gonna get the job done, that it affects the other priorities in your life. I've made that mistake once as a player, in terms of my family and my daughters, etc., and I don't intend to repeat that. You're saying, 'God! here I am putting in 16 hour days, seven days a week, eight months a year. And everything that I do, I've gotta do it, I've gotta touch all the bases.' And yet, what is it really contributing to the overall effect? It can be extremely frustrating, as I say, unless you're in a situation like Boston or L.A.

Can Walton Return this Season?

Celtics Hope for the Best

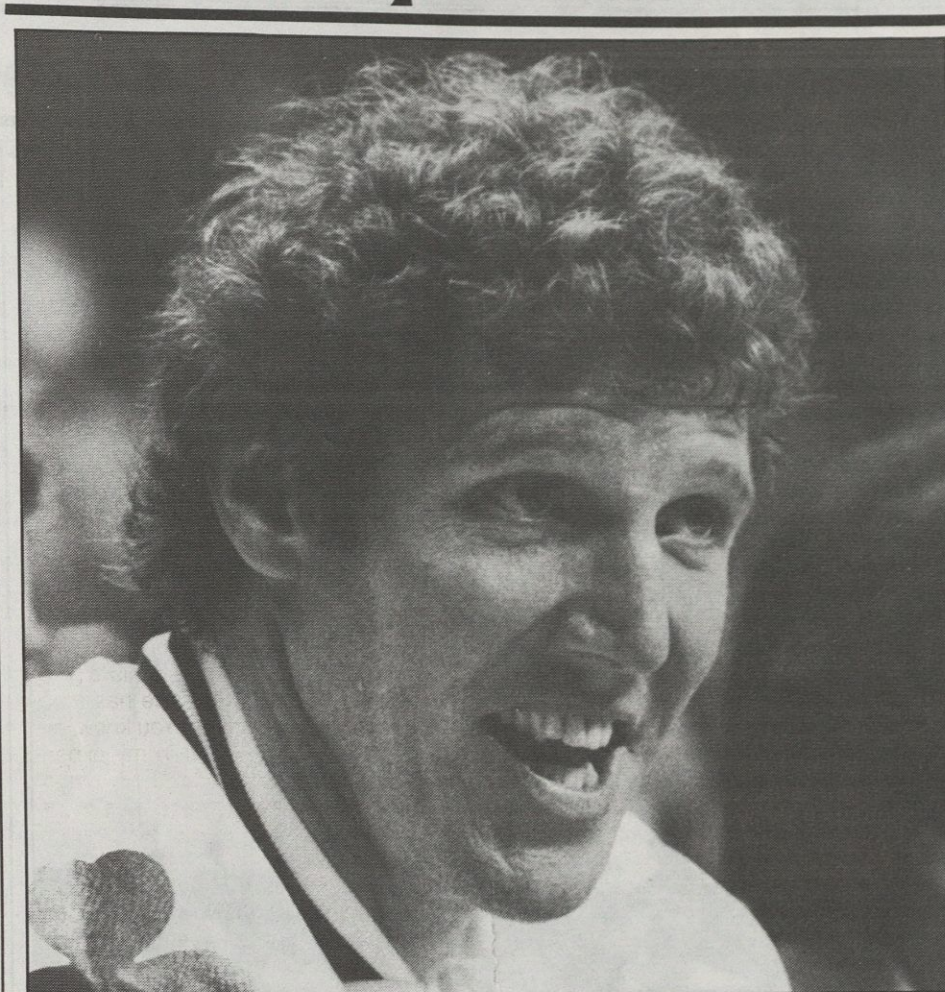
The return of Bill Walton to the Celtics this season appears possible. After having surgery on his right foot on July 7, Bill has been on the injured reserve list all season long. He has worked hard in rehabilitating the foot, since being in a cast for six weeks after the operation. His goal has consistently remained to get back to the team. When has been the only question.

During a visit with *Celtics Pride* in September, Bill seemed to be leaning toward staying out the entire season. His foot was very swollen at the time, and he was in obvious discomfort.

An arrangement was worked out with the Celtics whereby they would be allowed half of Walton's salary to loosen their salary cap. It was a mutually beneficial arrangement, as the Celtics were able to pursue some trades and not worry as much about the cap, and all the while Bill was able to work on getting healthy.

And apparently, the work has been going better than originally thought. Bill has been running and doing exercises in San Diego and Mexico during the fall, and since then has been a frequent visitor in Cambridge, where he could be seen running at Harvard.

During the All-Star break, he told Celtics Public Relations Director Jeff Twiss that he'd like to return to Boston again during the first two weeks in March. "We're glad Bill is back to running," said Jimmy Rodgers. "There's no doubt that Bill Walton's a tremendous player, and could be a great help to this team. When you are trying to win a championship, you



Bill Walton: Reason for Optimism?

need every edge. If Bill thinks he is close, then we'll wait and see what develops."

"I think one of the crucial binds K.C. got into last season," commented Tommy Heinsohn, "is that he never was sure if Bill could come back and play effectively."

During the post-season, Bill told K.C. he was ready to play, but soon, the pain began again in his foot. If you saw him trying to get up and down the floor against the Lakers, you could see he just wasn't the same.

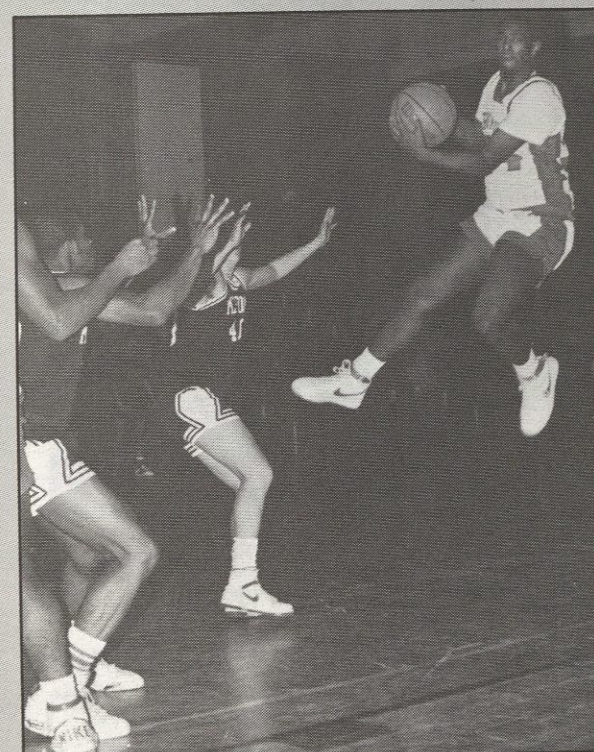
The Celtics are justifiably guarded about the possibility of Walton's return. Celtics G.M. Jan Volk said "It's up to Bill, when the playoffs get near. There's something in him that wants to get out there and play again. At this point in his career, there aren't that many playoffs left for him to compete in. Every one is important."

Walton has been heard among friends saying that he is feeling better while running. If he responds well to some preliminary tests, he will try playing in practice.

He has played very lightly in drills with Larry Bird thus far, and seems determined to return. But the history of Walton's ankle and foot problems dates back to 1978, and has required several surgeries, which suggests that any premature return to action might also be a bad mistake.

According to those close to the situation, the matter at this point is beyond any surgical procedure. Dr. Tony Daly, who did the surgery last July, is pleased with the recovery, but any final decision on playing is Bill's only. Presently, Dr. Daly is unavailable for comment. The issue, then, will be decided when Bill returns to Boston.

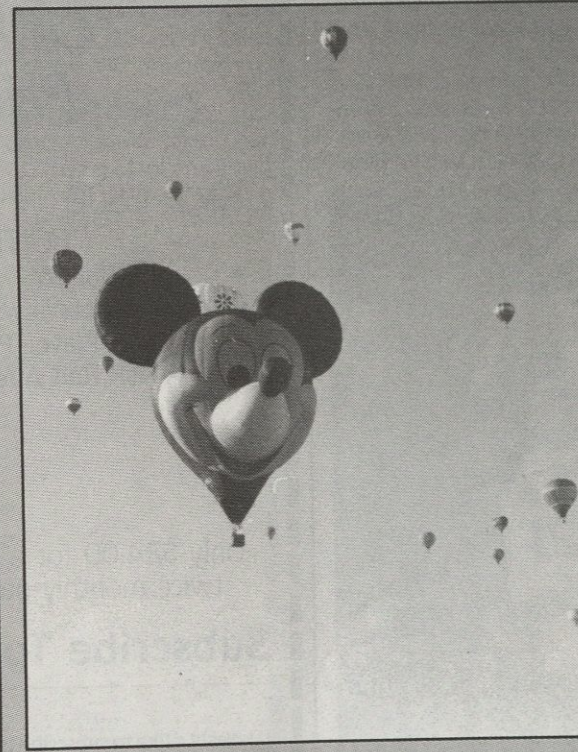
Kodak/Celtics Pride Photo Contest Winners



1st Place

Pictured above are the winners in this month's Kodak/Celtics Pride Photo Contest.

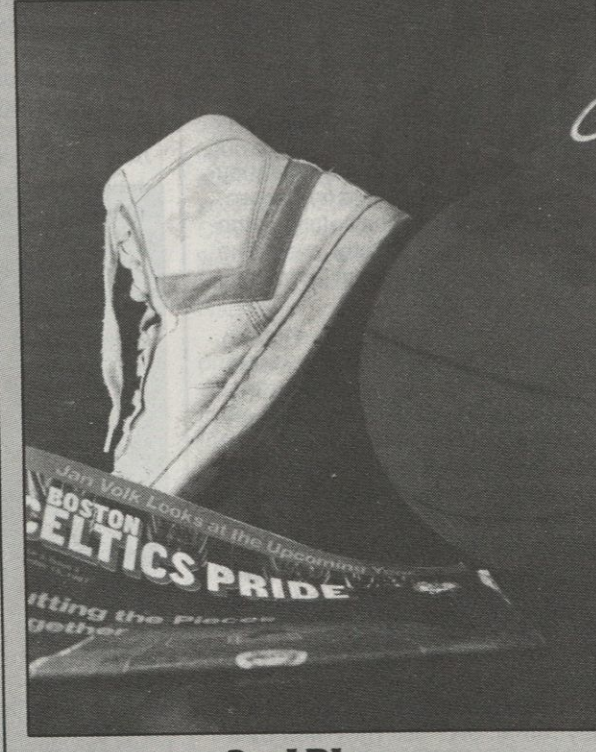
First place was awarded to Harry Mattison of Brookline, MA. For his efforts Harry will receive several exciting prizes from the Celtics and Kodak. Included are the oppor-



2nd Place

tunity to sit courtside and photograph an upcoming Celtics home game, and a Kodak K-1235mm camera.

Second and third places were awarded to Cathy Parker of Erie, PA and Donna Platt of New Orleans, LA, respectively. They too receive several prizes, including a perso-



3rd Place

nally autographed color photo enlargement of their favorite Celtics players.

To learn how you could become a lucky winner and become eligible for our grand prize, please refer to the contest rules on page 21.



THE BEST DAY THEY EVER HAD

Fred Roberts' Tour of Duty in Italy

"I'm uncertain how to best explain this," Fred Roberts said last week after a Celtics practice. "When a player is coming out of college and faces some uncertainty regarding his pro future, the options aren't always clear. When I came out of Brigham Young in 1982, I really didn't know what to do. When the Bucks didn't show much interest I went to Italy."

Fred Roberts, the back-up forward of the Celtics, had his greatest individual game while playing with Lotte Solè in the Italian League in his first season after graduating from Brigham Young. Ironically, his best effort came against an NBA All-Star team, formed after the conclusion of the 1981-82 season. Roberts had only recently decided to play in Europe and the entire setting was novel to him.

"I had a strong offer from Lotte Solè; to me, \$85,000 was something I couldn't turn by back on. The league turned out to be pretty good. What was important to me was getting away from the college atmosphere. I was now getting into a business situation, and I believe this helped me personally as well."

The contest was one of the first for the touring National Basketball Association All-Star team, which included players Herb Williams of Indiana, James Donaldson of the Seattle SuperSonics, Reggie Theus of the Chicago Bulls, Micheal Ray Richardson of the New Jersey Nets and Kevin McHale of the Celtics. The NBA has traditionally sent teams overseas to tour in Europe. (This past season the league hosted the first annual McDonald's classic, which was an open tournament featuring the Milwaukee Bucks and teams representing Italy, Russia and Spain.)

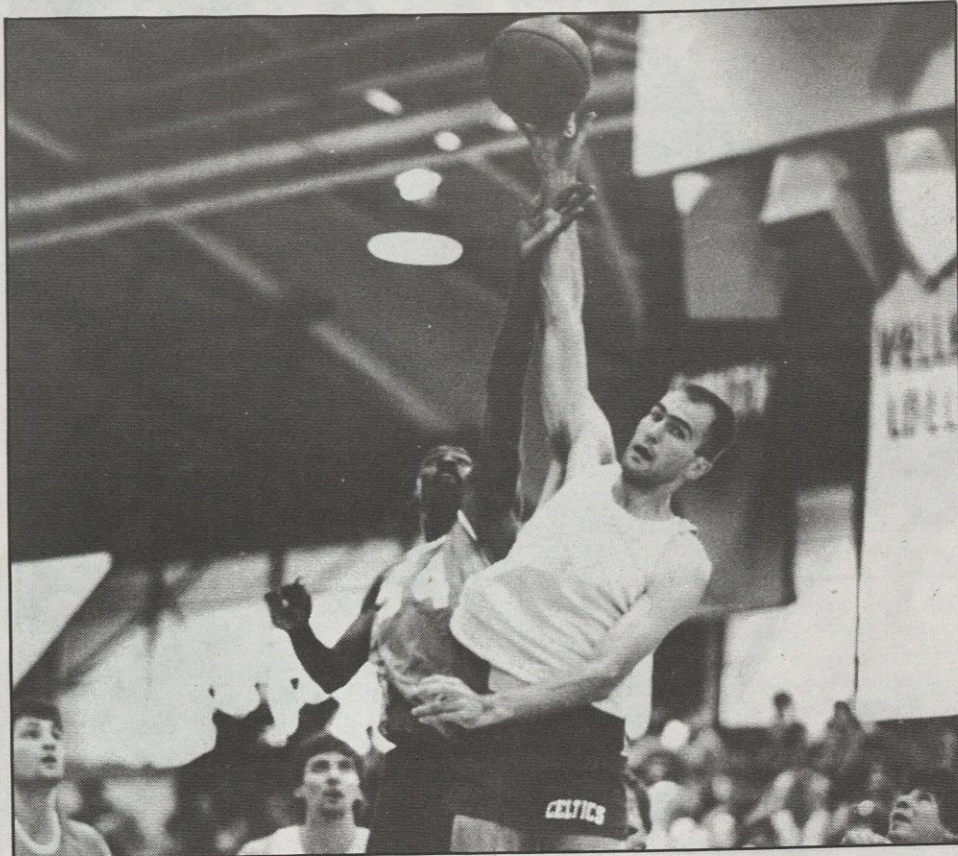
"We really didn't have much of a shot at them, even though they had some limitations of their own," explained Roberts. "They had just started their tour, and it's always difficult to play when you're coming together as a team and you've never played together before. And they were out of shape; it was the first game, and they hadn't played since the season had ended, which was two months before. In the first quarter we played fairly even (the NBA had a 30-27 lead) but then they started pulling away."

"My own game was really clicking though. I was hitting right-handed and lefty shots and my driving game was real good. I think I had something like twenty points by the half."

"The interesting thing to me was that the fans were so animated. The game was played in Bologna, and they were really behind us. We weren't really able to stay with them. Williams and Kevin were much better than the big men we had, and their running game and size allowed them to score even when the team game was missing."

"The game eventually degenerated and they ran all over us. They won by a score of 132-114—after leading at the half by 70-49. I kept working, though. There were NBA people there, there were scouts, and I was a young player just trying to improve my skills."

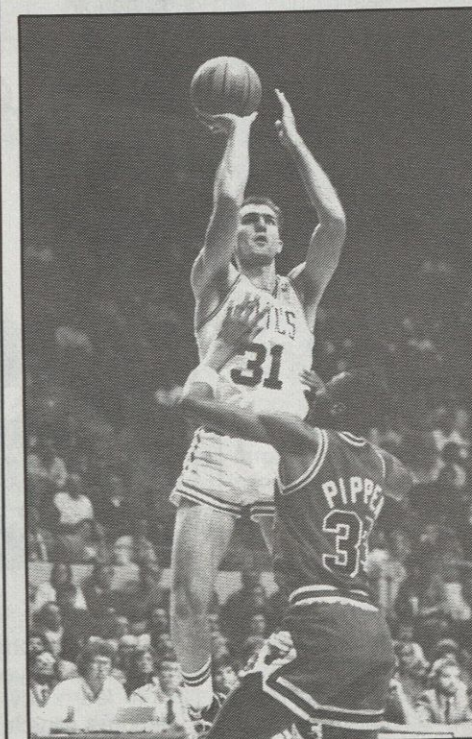
"The Italian League has some good players and the league overall is very competitive. What they do over there that



Fred Roberts: Italian Hero

is different is they zone a lot more. The players are shorter, so they have to make up for it with gimmicky defenses. The players are built differently, too. Not only do they lack the American player's height, they lack his conditioning. The Italian players are *hustlier*, so what that means is the games are rough. There's a lot of holding and in-fighting, things which force you to work harder if you want to have any future in the game at all."

Roberts had a fine career at Brigham Young. During the 1980-81 season, when he teamed with Danny Ainge and Greg Kite to help the Cougars into the Final



Fred Roberts: No Bologna

Eight he averaged 19.8 ppg. In his senior year he duplicated his career scoring average, 15.5 ppg, and in that season, he pulled down 215 rebounds. Impressive numbers, but still not strong enough to fortify his confidence.

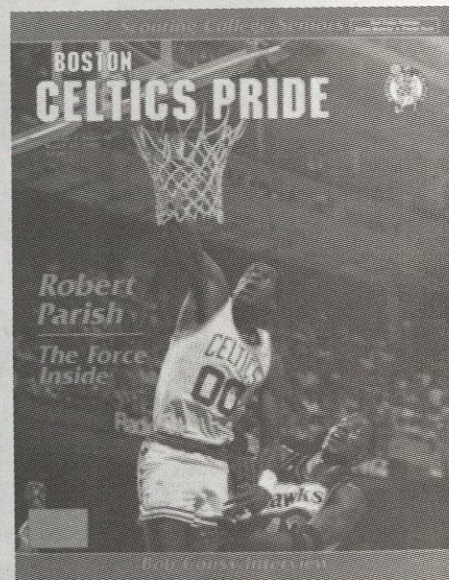
"That's exactly what the Italian League did for me," Roberts continued. "I got more time and I developed more faith in my abilities to play as a professional—I was one of the main players on our team. Could I come through when teams were constantly going at you early? Could I handle any style of play? Those were some of the things I learned the answers to when I was playing over there."

Roberts played one season in Italy and averaged 19.1 ppg with eight rebounds per game. The following year he played with San Antonio before being traded to Utah. He has stayed in the NBA ever since.

"I had a strong game against the NBA, but I honestly have to say that it wasn't anything like a dramatic turning point. I scored 43 in that game, but by the time the season ended over in Italy I had spent an entire year learning to adjust to new situations, rituals, a new language and still play. I remember the 43 points, but I also remember the game as being part of a season when I learned how to adjust to the game at the professional level, under somewhat unique circumstances."

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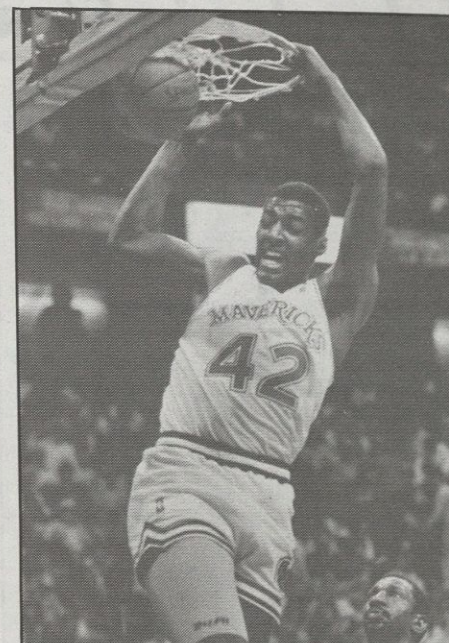
SCOUTING REPORT

The Celtics continue in their hunt for the best record in the league, with battles against Dallas, Philadelphia and Cleveland among the spotlight contests. The Celtics played a one-point contest against Dallas last month and have had problems with both Philadelphia and the young Cavs. Boston benefits from an unusual five day layoff this week.

Dallas, April 3. Something of a mental lock affects this series. Since the Mavericks began play in the 1980-81 season, the Celtics have lost to Dallas but one time. "I consider Dallas to be one of the best teams in the league," says K.C. Jones, Celtics' coach. "I've always respected Rolando Blackman. And James Donaldson, if healthy, is one of the heaviest hitters in the league." The Celtics have to contend with Mark Aguirre, one of the best scorers in the game (27.1 ppg, 5th in NBA). Derek Harper is a top point guard (8.5 apg) and Roy Tarpley, the second-year player from Michigan has developed into one of the best rebounders in the game off the bench.

Keys to the Game. Dallas is an excellent road team, with the third best record on the road in the circuit, behind only Los Angeles and Boston. Last season here, Donaldson impressed the entire Cs team with 21 rebounds, but has been injured this season. Parish, in Dallas, went for 12 points and 15 boards to help key the win. Aguirre hasn't been able to play well enough to put the Mavericks over the top against Boston, and in post-game comments after the Boston win in Dallas, he mentioned that beating Boston didn't make that much of a difference to him. Those aren't exactly fighting words from your star player. Bird hit for 39 in 106-104 win last month, including 3-point gamer.

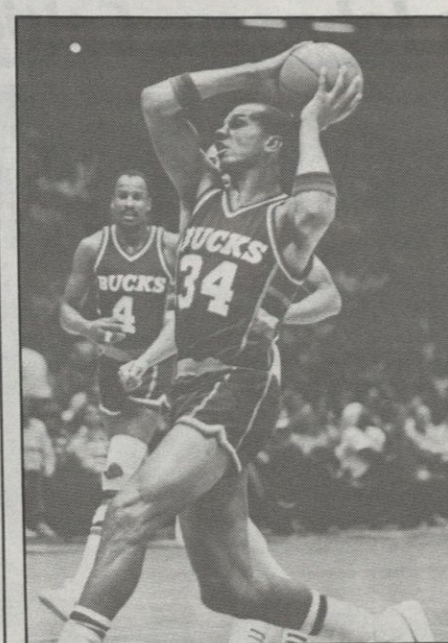
New Jersey, April 8. "I don't under-



Roy Tarpley: Good Sixth Man

stand their system," says expert Tom Heinsohn, "because the Nets keep bringing top players and they don't go anywhere." Orlando Woolridge lost to drugs, Dwayne Washington a hardship and apparently lost in the shuffle and Dennis Hopson, the first rounder this year has been hampered because of the team's coaching change. The problems derive, according to Heinsohn, from "Davey Wohl's perfectionism. He had to allow the younger players to grow in time, to give them room to work out their mistakes. He didn't do that, and he lost their confidence." The game is in Boston Garden and the Nets are 1-25 on the road this season.

Keys to the Game. Buck Williams is a class pro, averaging over 12 rebounds a game, but he hasn't been able to have the



Terry Cummings: Can Hurt the Celts

team be a driving force around him. The Nets' trade at midseason has apparently given them a player in Roy Hinson, to play opposite Buck. There isn't much else: John Bagley has played effectively as a point guard, but Dennis Johnson and Danny Ainge have won the battles in the backcourt this year. And Larry Bird is averaging 29 ppg over his career against the Nets. "I can't say enough about Larry," says Buck. "Every time I go out there against him, I see how a player is able to keep his competitive edge, night after night." The Celtics' inside game should flourish; Parish and McHale keyed an important win in New Jersey January 16th, when the team was on the rebound after a December slump.

At Philadelphia, April 10. Boston has had their way against their arch-rivals, who are now led by Coach Jimmy Lynam and have responded indifferently since Lynam took over from the fired Matt Guokas last month. Charles Barkley lashed out at his teammates earlier this year and had more to say during the All-Star break last month. "I'm tired," he told Bob Ryan of *The Boston Globe*, "mentally and physically. If we don't get Cliff Robinson back soon, I'll be in trouble. Scoring 33, 34 points a night is hard work. They double-team me as if I were a 7-footer." Stopping Philadelphia in Philly is always a difficult task — Barkley went for 40 points and 13 rebounds in last game at Spectrum. Mike Gminski is a solid addition to the team, 10th in circuit with 10.1 rebounds per game. Maurice Cheeks is still an All-Star, 9th in NBA with 8.2 assists per game.

Keys to the Game. The Celtics must control the running game of Philadelphia, which is a three-fold mission. First is to stop Barkley from taking the ball off the boards (11.5 rpg) and turning the game into a one-man show, coast-to-coast, à la Julius Erving. Second, the team must match up against the ever-present Cheeks, who cherishes each chance to topple Boston. Third, watching the G-Man, always a nemesis and who once scored 42 against Boston while with the Nets. Celtics won last match here 118-115, weathering a storm from the silenced assassin, an unreasonably maligned Andrew Toney and capitalizing on a sudden 3-point surge by Danny Ainge.

Milwaukee, April 13. First meeting between the teams since they played twice in three days during late February and early March. Celtics have been able to play effectively against the Bucks at home (winning here opening night and February 26th). Bucks have had success against Boston in traditional ways in this series: Terry Cummings and Sidney Moncrief have hurt the Celtics recently, with Cummings leading the Bucks' scoring parade. Last season's playoffs saw John Lucas hurt Boston as point guard but the Bucks were trying to trade him at last month's trading deadline. Jack Sikma is a Parish nemesis: his 20-point, 11-rebound game helped Milwaukee weather Boston second half rally to allow Bucks 111-101 win last month.

Keys to the Game. Milwaukee is a very under-rated team. They are able to trip up more talented teams with unassuming stars such as Paul Pressey and the under-rated Randy Breuer. The key to this game is how well Larry Bird is able to shake Pressey's defense. In a running game, Bird has a tendency to fatigue and that makes Pressey's defense appear much better. Bird had eight TOs opening night, for example. Bird shot 7-24 in 111-101 defeat. Del Harris has done well to keep this team in Central Division playoff hunt, partly by using Breuer and Sikma together: Ricky Pierce's return helps Bucks.

At Cleveland, April 15. Where else to spend tax night for the Celtics but in the Richfield Coliseum, which for Boston, has been akin to being thrown to the lions. Boston has been trounced twice here this season, both painful defeats. Bird injured both Achilles in Game One 109-88 defeat and then when the Cs had an opportunity to win Jones the All-Star coaching slot the night after a big win over the Hawks, Boston came up empty in a 119-100 loss. It isn't only the locale, either; Cleveland has one of the best young centers in the league in Brad Daugherty and a possible superstar (providing more control) in Ron Harper. "People say Mark Price is an accident," says CBS' Billy Packer, "but the kid can play, because he's an exceptional athlete." Del Curry led a 3-point salvo against Boston in previous Coliseum win. Cleveland will be in the playoffs and they will be there with more experience and a more physical game, provided by Larry Nance.

Keys to the Game. The Celtics begin preparing for the post-season in earnest this week and one of the important places to do this is in Richfield, Ohio. A test for their intensity? Here, where their road woes have been as evident as a snowstorm in Phoenix, the key to the game is inside. Daugherty, West and John "Hot Rod" Williams are all critical opponents for McHale, Parish and Bird to counter. The Celtics went after a big man before the trading deadline and failed. Their acquisition of Paxson has helped their rotation and overall team confidence. For the Celtics to go anywhere in the playoffs, they must establish control on the offensive end. Their ability to execute their set offense and get points inside will halt the Cavs, and it is necessary here and further down the road. Boston must halt the inside-out attack of Cleveland: Price is leading 3-point marksman in league (48-92, .552). He balances their inside intimidation.



CELTICS MOSTS

Dennis Johnson: Celtics Leader in Steals

In the later stages of his career Dennis Johnson is again something of a marked man. This was the young luminary whose versatility lifted him to elite status in the league. As a third-year player in Seattle, Johnson won the Playoff Most Valuable Player designation when he led the Seattle SuperSonics to the 1979 NBA title (*Celtics Pride*, January 1988). This recognition came after he turned in a 20.9 ppg scoring average in that post-season, blanking the Washington Bullets' offense that year. In 1980, contractual problems led to a trade to the Phoenix Suns, from whom he was dealt when the Celtics happily acquired the 6-4, 202-pound player in June of 1983.

Now Johnson's brilliance is widely acknowledged: he's a driving force on and off the floor for the Celtics, with tenacity on the court, and a burning desire to be a champion.

Dennis Johnson is the career leader of the Boston Celtics in steals, a category in the NBA stats that was first officially counted when the NBA and ABA merged in 1976. It is a defensive maneuver that has had an important and sometimes heroic place in the Celtics' history. In 1965, John Havlicek made a brilliantly-timed theft of a Hal Greer pass to save the Celtics' eighth consecutive championship as the Celtics defeated the Philadelphia 76ers and Wilt Chamberlain in the Eastern Conference final series. Boston went on to squelch the Lakers in the championship round, four games to one.

In recent history there have been two more celebrated moments: Gerald Henderson's Game Two steal of a James Worthy pass to key a Celtics' seventh game championship round win, and last season, Larry Bird's last-second steal from Isiah Thomas in Game Five in the Eastern Conference Final. Bird passed to Johnson for the winning points.

"Although the play appears spectacular," Johnson says, "I rarely try to make steals on defense. The problem is that



Dennis Johnson: Celtics Thief

with players like Michael Jordan, Magic Johnson and Sidney Moncrief, there is just too much probability that the man will go right on by you if you mess up. What I try to do is play strong position defense. I'll have one foot forward, one foot back, and this helps my lateral movement. If the man I'm playing goes up for the shot, I'll want to

an aggressive end-to-end defender against talents as different as Rolando Blackman and Michael Adams. Johnson takes the marquee types, and Larry Bird's responsibility varies. Bird is an excellent team defensive player with the ability to block shots and make steals himself. "The thing that I can do is try and attempt the steal because of the type of player behind me or around me. I believe Danny's quickness wears guys down, and if my man does get by me, I have the feeling that I'll be protected by players like Robert and Kevin," says Bird.

One of the integral elements of the steal is the emotional life it provides for the team. It is glamorous; it does excite because it's a timing play in a game predicated on rhythm. Johnson's best playoff series was the 1980 three game set against the Portland Trail Blazers, when he made 11 steals, a league record. And he made a series of steals in the post-season in Boston that led directly to league championships. In the final minute against the Lakers in the aforementioned '84 Final, Johnson stole Magic Johnson's dribble as the Celtics were desperately clinging to a 105-102 margin. Johnson's steal and an ensuing steal by Parish on the following Laker possession won that championship for Boston. Two years later, Johnson's ball-hawking tactics again played a pivotal part, as the Celtics swept the Hawks in Game Five of the Eastern Conference final. DJ's two steals kicked off a sensational 24-0 rout in the fourth quarter to send Boston into the Finals against Houston.

"I can't overstate the priority I give to technique," Johnson claims. "Everything depends on the timing and the positioning. I won't risk foolishly if the man is protecting the ball with his body. It's when he puts the ball out in front, often in a cross-over dribble, that I have my best opportunity to make the play. Once that ball is out there, then I reach in and make the steal."

It's textbook, but it's also dramatic and stylish, a matter of experience and physical ability that have ensured Dennis Johnson's place in the annals of Celtics' history: club career leader in steals.

be directly in front of him (between the shooter and the basket). I'll know when he commits for the shot, and then I'll jump out at him. So much glamor is attached to making steals, but I think the best part of our defensive game is that we look to help each other."

The Celtics' defense is predicated on quickness, individual talent and the shot-blocking abilities of Robert Parish, Kevin McHale and Bill Walton. Danny Ainge is

Kodak Photo Tip #5

By Steve Lipofsky, Official Photographer of the Celtics

This time around let's talk about the factors involved in producing properly exposed photos. A good exposure is one in which you allow just the right amount of light to strike the film in your camera.

The two elements that control that amount of light are the shutter and the iris. The shutter is just what the name implies. It opens and closes for a precisely governed length of time to allow the light passing through the lens to strike the film. As discussed previously, shutter measurements are expressed in fractions of a second. The smaller fractions such as 1/1000th of a second, 1/500th of a second, allow very little light to strike the film while the slower speeds such as 1/60th and 1/30th of a second allow more.

The second element affecting exposure, the iris, is part of the lens and works like the iris of your eye, closing down to

allow less light or opening up to allow more. You can see this function by shining a light into the eye and watching the iris contract. The iris opening is expressed in F-stops. The smaller numbers such as F1.7 or F2.8 representing wide openings allowing more light through than the larger numbers such as F16 or F22 which allow relatively little light through the lens.

If you have an automatic camera, it will determine the right shutter speed and F-stop for your subject. If your camera allows manual control, you may rely on your camera's meter, a hand-held meter or the recommendations that come with the film for exposure settings.

For any given lighting condition, there are a number of shutter speed/F-stop combinations that will give a good exposure.

Next time we'll discuss how to choose the best combinations for your situation.

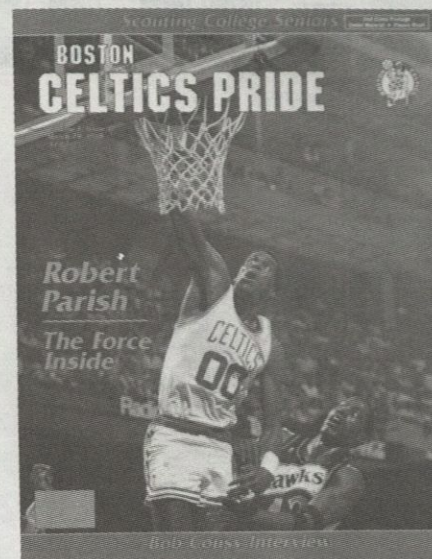
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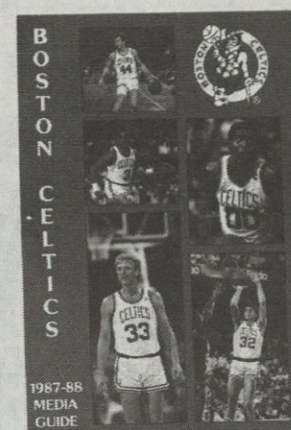
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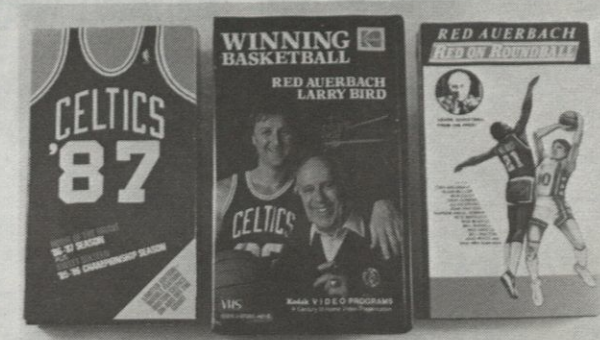
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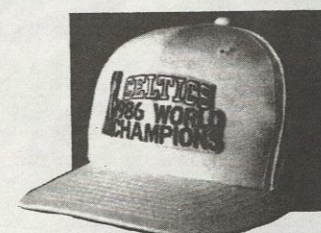
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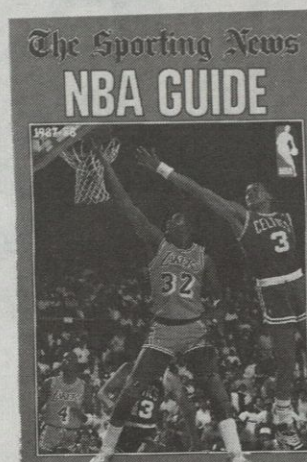
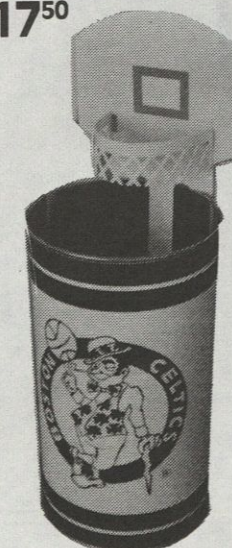
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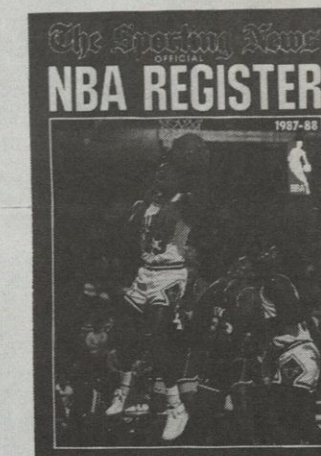
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